

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, big changes can come from small places. For President Eisenhower and every American born since his time, big change came from a dusty old church pew.

One early Sunday morning, Eisenhower ceremoniously went to Abraham Lincoln's former church, where a new preacher, an immigrant, would re-shape Ike's ideology.

That preacher described, in his Scottish accent, how he had no answer for his children when asked why God wasn't in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He eloquently assured his children God was what made America better than any other country. So eloquently that Ike would see the pledge changed in a matter of months.

While activist judges and militant atheists want you to believe that taking God out of school and government is the right thing to do, 91 percent of Americans disagree. They still believe "in one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We have proved that we will not bow to terrorists. But 91 percent of Americans also vow not to bow to extremist judges and a tiny atheist minority.

Americans overwhelmingly support "One Nation Under God" so much that they are giving their children's lives to save it.

That's just the way it is.

RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY ON MAHER ARAR

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Maher Arar, whose treatment at the hands of American officials is a stain upon our national conscience.

During a layover in New York's JFK airport in September 2002, Mr. Arar, who was born in Syria but who now holds Canadian citizenship, was seized by American officials. He was held without access to a lawyer for two weeks in the United States, then transferred briefly to Jordan, and finally to Syria. Mr. Arar was imprisoned in Syria for 10 months, most of the time in a dark underground dungeon the size of a closet. He was tortured both physically and psychologically, and forced to make false confessions, including that he had attended an al-Qaeda terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. Maher Arar was finally released a year after he was seized in New York, never having been charged with any crime.

When he was in American custody in New York, Maher Arar demanded to speak to a

lawyer. He was denied. He demanded to speak to a judge. He was denied. He asked the American officials not to send him to Syria, as he knew he would be tortured there. Of course, the Americans did not need to be told that Syria routinely tortures its prisoners, as the U.S. State Department lists Syria in its annual Human Rights report as a country that practices torture. Yet Maher Arar was sent to Syria for interrogation, where he was brutally tortured, just as the American officials involved in his rendition must have known he likely would be.

Mahe Arar was the victim of the Bush administration's program of "extraordinary rendition," whereby prisoners in American custody are sent abroad for interrogation in other countries, sometimes to places such as Syria and Uzbekistan that are known to routinely practice torture. This is a disgusting practice that brings dishonor to the United States of America, and ultimately endangers our troops in the field by validating the use of torture all over the world. Extraordinary rendition is nothing more than the outsourcing of torture, and this program must come to an immediate halt. The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act, which I introduced in this House over a year and a half ago, would end the practice of extraordinary rendition. But the Republican leadership has refused to bring the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have many details on the case of Maher Arar, because the Bush administration has refused to divulge any information on its program of extraordinary rendition and the rubber-stamp Republican Congress have refused to conduct any meaningful oversight over this program. Now that the President has admitted that the CIA operated secret prisons all over the world, the Congress must step up to the plate and conduct true oversight on the President's program of extraordinary rendition.

This week, the official Canadian inquiry into the case of Maher Arar, which focused on the role that Canadian officials played in his rendition, released its report. The Arar Commission report clears Maher Arar of any wrongdoing, and concludes that he was indeed transferred to Syria by the United States, where he was tortured. American authorities were invited to testify before the Arar Commission, but refused.

Canada has now completed its investigation into the injustice done to Mr. Arar by Canadian officials, who without any evidence of wrongdoing told the U.S. he had connections with terrorist organizations. Mr. Speaker, now this Congress must initiate our own investigation into the role that U.S. officials played in this affair. We must know the truth of what happened to Maher Arar, why it happened, upon whose orders, and upon what justification.

That is why I have today introduced five separate Resolutions of Inquiry requesting copies of all documents in the possession of the United States Government that may relate, in any way, to Maher Arar. These five Resolu-

tions direct the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to provide Congress with all documents and records in their possession relating to Maher Arar. The same request is made of the President, in order to ensure that any documents in the possession of the White House or the Intelligence Community are also provided forthwith.

The Congress, and the American people, must learn the truth of what was done to Maher Arar. I urge my colleagues to support these Resolutions of Inquiry.

RECOGNIZING JASON ANDREW HEJL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Andrew Hejl, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jason held the principal leadership position of Venturing Crew President and has actively supported VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Andrew Hejl for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional individuals at Baldwin School District, an institution which renders significant contributions to the educational development and social enrichment of youth.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, our community, and our Nation, and is enhanced by the contributions of those who serve as mentors and those who make mentoring programs safe and strong.

The Baldwin School District and its leadership have promoted and supported mentoring

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

programs through an innovative partnership which brings together dedicated teachers, businesspeople, and community volunteers with students. Baldwin's programs have been a bridge of understanding which have highlighted the talents and determination of its young people and the devotion of the teachers, businesspeople, and community volunteers who give their time and commitment to mentoring.

The mentoring process brings benefits to youth, the caring adults who guide them, and by extension to the community, the business world, and the region, and Baldwin's innovative mentoring program is outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to the Baldwin School District.

IN HONOR OF HOSPICE OF THE
WESTERN RESERVE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Hospice of the Western Reserve as it celebrates the opening of its Lakewood office. The new office will enable the Hospice to provide more quality care to the people of Lakewood.

Hospice of the Western Reserve is a community-based agency that provides comfort and care as well as emotional support to its patients and their families. Regardless of age, disease, or ability to pay, all are welcomed to the Hospice. Serving more than 1,000 patients daily, The Hospice of the Western Reserve is the largest program of its kind in Ohio and the fourth largest in the country.

In addition to pain alleviation, the Hospice also offers social, psychosocial and spiritual support for both patients and family members. The Hospice is ever increasing its ability to provide quality care and support and enhancing quality of life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Hospice of the Western Reserve and the opening of its Lakewood office. Providing quality assistance to those who need it most, the Hospice stands as a monument to palliative care and end-of-life service.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN CADET
ALLIANCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support and appreciation for the American Cadet Alliance and its recent establishment of a cadet unit located at the Hammer Field Army National Guard Armory in Fresno, CA. Tracing its heritage to 1909, the American Cadet Alliance is America's oldest nationwide Cadet Corps.

The American Cadet Alliance was founded as the Colonel Cody's Boy Scouts by Captain James H.C. Smyth in 1909. Shortly thereafter, the Colonel Cody's Boy Scouts was reorga-

nized as the American Naval and Marine Scouts. The American Naval and Marine Scouts continued to evolve and through numerous reorganization efforts, the efforts of the American Nautical Alliance, Inc., and the Maritime Brigade came full circle with the eventual merger of the two to form the American Cadet Alliance, Inc.

The American Cadet Alliance is led by a team of professional officers who currently serve on a voluntary basis. The American Cadet Alliance is a career-exploration program, providing young men and women with realistic view of military life, allowing them to make informed decisions regarding future service in the Armed Forces. Through a multifaceted cadet program, the importance of national pride, service to others, and maintaining a drug-free and gang-free lifestyle serve as hallmarks of the American Cadet Alliance message.

Under the leadership and sponsorship provided by the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, and with assistance from the Fresno Recruiting Company of the United States Army Recruiting Command, and guidance from local, State, national Military leaders, current and prospective participants will prove to benefit from the character building skills evident throughout the cadet program.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support of the American Cadet Alliance unit in Fresno, CA, and to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the local efforts to ensure this program's success. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the American Cadet Alliance many years of continued success.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF POLAND IN AFGHANISTAN
AND IRAQ

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the contributions Poland has made in the ongoing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Poland has been a steadfast ally of the United States, and I thank the Polish people and government for their friendship.

America has enjoyed strong ties with Poland since our Nation's founding. During the American Revolution, Polish patriots such as Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko made valuable contributions in securing our Nation's independence. Today, over 30 percent of my district and 9 million Americans across our country can claim Polish ancestry.

The Polish and American Governments have enjoyed close, bilateral relations since 1989, when Poland became a free, democratic, and independent nation. Since that time, Poland has made dramatic strides in securing its democracy, improving its economy, and developing strong relationships with its neighbors in Europe and abroad. This is evident in Poland's joining of NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.

In addition to its membership in NATO, Poland's military has been very active in United Nations' peacekeeping forces and has played a vital role in the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Poland currently has 1,000 troops

deployed in Iraq, and when a recent call went out to NATO nations asking for reinforcements to Afghanistan, Poland was the first to respond, pledging 900 additional troops to that country.

Today, along with the Caucus on Central and Eastern Europe, I had the honor of hosting the chief of general staff of Polish Armed Forces, General Gabor. General Gabor is a distinguished soldier and a proven leader. I have no doubt that under General Gabor's watch the Polish military will continue to make valuable contributions to peace around the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Poland's contributions in Afghanistan and Iraq and to recognize Poland as one of our Nation's most important allies.

NATIONAL ADDICTION RECOVERY
MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call our attention to National Addiction Recovery Month this September, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending those who commit their time and effort to addiction recovery.

In 2005, an estimated 19 million Americans used illicit drugs. The impact of this pandemic is felt not only by individuals and their families, but by society as well. Addiction costs our society and economy billions of dollars each year, in health care costs, property damage, and lost productivity. It also costs lives, and causes immense amounts of grief and pain. Addiction is a disease, and it must be attacked as such. No one is immune from addiction, as it afflicts people of all ages, all races, all classes, and all professions.

As with any serious disease, the treatment for addiction relies on great amounts of research and advances in health sciences. There have been tremendous strides in the fight against addiction. Congress allocates billions of dollars each year on addiction research at the National Institutes of Health. The NIH is a leader in this regard, and it has committed funds to research on addiction, including research on how addiction takes over the brain, the body, and the central nervous system. We must continue to fund NIH at the level it deserves so scientists can unlock the mysteries of addiction and its impact on individuals and society.

Today, September 20, 2006, is National Addiction Professionals Day, and I applaud the hard work and dedication of addiction counselors who must encounter daily the difficult task of prevention, intervention, and treatment. The research on addiction that NIH conducts can only support and complement the addiction counselors' efforts in helping many Americans afflicted with addiction. We need to give them all of the support we can.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the valuable contributions of all those who devote their time and energy to addiction recovery. We should honor and appreciate their hard work. Congress has shown strong support for this issue. However, we are far from victory, and we must continue

our steadfast fight against drug and alcohol addiction. I look forward to the day when addiction to drugs and alcohol are eradicated, and these wonderful professionals can take their final bow.

RECOGNIZING JESSE CASH FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse Cash, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jesse has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jesse has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jesse held the principal leadership position of Venturing Crew President and has actively supported the ministry of Heartland Presbyterian Center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jesse Cash for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EVY
DUBROW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of Evelyn Kahan Dubrow who passed away on June 20, 2006. Known to her friends and colleagues as "Evvy", she dedicated her life to the public service of worker's rights in the United States for over 5 decades. Known on Capitol Hill as the lobbyist everyone loves, Evvy had the ability to be a uniter and inexorable activist for the power of the people. As a union activist and general advocate for working families from across the country, Evvy's accomplishments ranged from being named one of Washington Magazine's Top 100 Women to winning the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

From a humble upbringing as the daughter of immigrant Belorussian factory workers, Evvy rose to become one of America's most notable labor organizers. Her ability to not stray from her roots while still embracing a wide variety of viewpoints led to her success as a civil rights activist and a champion of the average American.

Her distinguished career in labor organizing eventually led her to Washington, DC, where she became a pillar of the movement as an unflinching and vigilant lobbyist for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Her accomplishments were honored in 1999 nationally when President Clinton named her a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Upon meeting Evvy Dubrow, President Clinton said that she was a tiny woman, larger than life. The President went on to note her candor, strength, and dedication to being the champion of the impoverished.

Indefatigable until the end, Evvy lived until age 95 and never lost her passion for human rights and the spirit of each individual person.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and recognizing the great accomplishments of Evvy Dubrow in the field of labor organizing. For over 50 years, Evvy Dubrow stood for the strength, resolve, and gritty integrity of millions of working class Americans.

STUDENT AND TEACHER SAFETY
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Maintaining school safety is an important objective of school administrators and communities around the country, but this bill will only serve to complicate the lives of school officials and probably violate students' Constitutional rights in the process.

In 1969, the Supreme Court stated in *Tinker v. Des Moines* 393 U.S. 503 (1969) that students do not "shed their constitutional rights when they enter the schoolhouse door." While *Tinker* was a free speech case, the principle applies here as well. The vague legislative language of H.R. 5295 would lead school officials to believe that they have the authority to conduct searches that could be at odds with the standards set out by the Supreme Court in the 1985 decision of *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S. 325 (1985), the 1 guiding case on this issue, in which the Court attempted to strike a balance between student privacy and school discipline and safety.

While this bill correctly requires that school officials have "reasonable suspicion" before conducting a search of a student, it describes too broadly the purpose and the scope of the search that school administrators can conduct. The bill incorrectly suggests that school officials can conduct random, wide scale searches of students without having any individualized suspicion that a particular student to be searched is participating in criminal activity or breaking the school rules.

When schools officials do not focus student searches on individuals who are suspected of violating the law or school rules, the results of the searches are often fruitless. School administrators will do more to improve children's safety by concentrating on suspicious behavior and credible information from teachers and students that school rules or criminal laws are being broken, than by conducting widespread unsubstantiated searches.

While this legislation is well intentioned, it nonetheless constitutes bad policy and is constitutionally unsound. Even if the language in

the bill accurately reflects today's constitutional standards, Court decisions are often modified by subsequent decisions. School officials may therefore find themselves in the future caught between complying with an obsolete statute or obeying the modified Court decision and risking the loss of funding under this bill.

School districts have a long history of abiding by search and seizure policies that are consistent with court rulings. This legislative directive is unnecessary and will only serve to further complicate the lives of students and teachers. This is the reason why the American Federation of Teachers, National School Board Association, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National PTA, the American Association of School Administrators and the ACLU all oppose the bill. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

PENIEL RESIDENTIAL DRUG AND
ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTER
CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of a community service organization in my congressional district. Housed in Tanneryville, a suburban area near the city of Johnstown, PA, Peniel Residential Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center is a successful comprehensive treatment program that offers help to both men and women 18 years of age and older who are suffering from the effects of substance abuse.

Through the use of an individualized treatment plan, each client has his or her needs addressed on a personal level for the length of the treatment period, which is between 12 and 18 months.

The aim and driving force behind the Peniel program is to help people overcome their addictions and learn how to live effective and productive lives as contributing members of their communities.

Treating roughly 45 patients at a time on a revolving basis, Peniel has helped hundreds of people break the chains of drug and alcohol addiction through a religious, community-centered program.

One of the best and most gratifying by-products of the program is the considerable number of graduates who now call the Johnstown area their home, having successfully integrated back into society as business owners and community leaders leading a healthy life.

In addition to equipping each resident with the ability to maintain his or her sobriety, Peniel empowers clients to manage their immediate environment and to have a positive influence in their homes, churches and communities following completion of the program.

Again, I offer my congratulations to Peniel for reaching the milestone of its 25th anniversary. I am confident that, with such excellent programs, the organization will continue to be a vital asset to the region for another 25 years and beyond.

IN HONOR OF MABEL BURCH
NORWOOD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100 birthday of Mabel Burch Norwood. Mabel was born on September 20, 1906 in Del Valle, Texas to John Clarence Burch and Ida Mae Jones.

On February 8, 1924 Mabel married James Edward Norwood. Together they had 6 daughters, Marie Roberts, Betty Ball, Harriet Humphrey, Dorothy Burchard, Earline Hocker and Barbara Parr. She has 14 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, 11 great, great grandchildren, 3 great, great grandchildren and 47 living descendants. What an accomplishment.

In the earlier years of her life, Mabel enjoyed staying home raising her family. She also enjoyed teaching Sunday school at Haynie Chapel United Methodist Church where she taught for 41 years.

On this, her 100th birthday, I know I speak for her family, friends, my constituents and the Members of the House of Representatives in wishing her a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING JOHN WILLIAM
PERKOWSKI FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John "Will" Perkowski, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

"Will" has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Will held the principal leadership position of Venturing Crew Secretary and has actively supported recreational therapy programs within regional hospitals. Will has donated over 100 man-hours of concert time through his chorus and barbershop quartet performances.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Perkowski for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FLOSSIE
COLLINS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of Flossie Perry Col-

lins who passed away on September 8, 2006. A beloved mother, grandmother, and local democratic organizer, Flossie embodied the true spirit of the Democratic Party both publicly and in her daily life.

Born in Newville, Alabama, Flossie moved to Cleveland, Ohio after high school where she married Frederick Douglas Collins and began a career as a nurse. Upon her retirement, Flossie dedicated herself to her community by becoming an active volunteer for organizations including the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, War 19 Democratic Club, the Parent Teacher Association, and the Gunning Recreation Center. Her service to her community stands as a beacon of the American Spirit of dedication to civic improvement and rich cultural development.

Her steadfast loyalty to volunteering for charitable and meaningful causes locally earned Flossie lifetime friendships and the respect of many that knew her. The programs she spearheaded, including after school activities for at-risk youth and an effort to improve undeveloped neighborhoods through community interaction, became staples to the cultural development of the Cleveland area.

Flossie's unwavering courage and commitment to core values such as honesty, integrity, grace, and love were strengthened and reinforced by a deep faith in God and a sturdy foundation in the true principles of Christianity. For over 60 years, Flossie embodied these principles through being an active member and leader in the Gethsemane Baptist Church. Though she held many titles and performed many duties for the church, her passion was in singing. To her, the choir brought together the voices of many people and bound them together in unity and community—just as she did in her life.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and recognizing the accomplishments of Flossie Collins as a woman who stood for true American values.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday, September 15, 2006, however, my vote on the following rollcalls would have been as follows: roll No. 451, H. Con. Res. 210—"yea," roll No. 452, H. Res. 622—"yea," roll No. 453, H. Con. Res. 415—"yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH
SEASON OF "BOUND FOR GLORY"

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the beginning of the 40th season of "Bound for Glory." This radio show is a weekly live broadcast from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Over the years this nationally acclaimed program has become a distinguished and beloved musical institution in the

Ithaca community and beyond. I am very proud of my constituents who have produced this esteemed radio show that has become so widely enjoyed.

From its creation in 1967, "Bound for Glory" has been committed to producing outstanding folk music and showcasing a broad range of musicians. "Bound for Glory", with its founder and long-time host Phil Shapiro, has produced over 1,200 live folk concerts and is North America's longest running radio show that still features live concerts. In this era where spontaneity is the exception rather than the norm on commercial radio, Bound for Glory provides a welcome reprieve. Today, the show is also broadcast online through the Internet and is accessible far beyond WVBR's FM listeners.

American folk music is in its renaissance due in no small part to programs like "Bound for Glory". Society and culture have changed greatly since 1967, but "Bound for Glory" has remained a consistent and enduring treasure.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize "Bound for Glory" as it enters its 40th year on the air. I believe that the passion of its listeners, programmers, and guest artists will ensure that this program continues to thrive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was at Arlington National Cemetery attending the funeral with full military honors for LCDR James Edwin Plowman, a missing-in-action Navy pilot shot down in 1967 in Vietnam, whose remains were positively identified after military investigators found his crash site several years ago. He was the father of James Plowman, Jr., Commonwealth's attorney for Loudoun County in my congressional district.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 454, the motion to consider H. Res. 1015, the rule for H.R. 4844, Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS LAWRENCE
WILLIAMS FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Thomas held the principal leadership position of Venturing Crew Treasurer and has actively supported VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS J. HARRINGTON FOR OVER FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO LOCAL 33 OF THE UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man whose professional life has been dedicated to improving the lives of working men and women in Massachusetts and across our nation. Tommy Harrington is a remarkable labor leader with a long and illustrious career in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Massachusetts.

Tommy joined the Carpenters Apprenticeship Program in 1966 after graduating from Boston Trade High School. During his tenure, he held several prestigious positions in Carpenters Local 33, the Massachusetts State Council of Carpenters and the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. In 1989, after twenty-three years in the field as a carpenter and Union Steward, he became a Business Agent for Local 33. In 1990, he was elected President of the Massachusetts State Council of Carpenters, an office which he held until 1993. Following this esteemed position, he became the Business Manager of Local 33 and was elevated to the position of Financial Secretary.

In September of 2001, Tommy reached the pinnacle of his career when he achieved the position of Executive Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. Tommy's personal integrity, hard work and determination illustrate the best qualities of those who serve the working men and women of this country.

Although he has held many of the most official positions in Local 33, Tommy is best known for the personal relationships he cultivated with the men and women he worked with on a daily basis. Anyone who has had the privilege to call Tommy a colleague or friend knows that he is one of the most thoughtful, caring and compassionate individuals, always putting the safety and welfare of his union carpenters and their families first.

Tommy has also set an example as a model citizen. His civic involvement can be seen in the numerous causes he has actively supported. Tommy has worked tirelessly on behalf of the pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place volunteering his time and energy. He has participated in charity events for organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston and the South Boston Health Center.

Despite his various accomplishments, as his friend I can honestly say that the title that Tommy has always been most proud of and which he cherishes most, is the title of husband and father. Tommy has had the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune to be married to his wife Ginny for over thirty-

five years. They are the proud parents of two lovely and adoring daughters, Heather and Cindy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Tommy Harrington's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for forty years of remarkable service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Tommy's distinguished career and wishing him good health and God's blessing in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DADE CITY WOMEN'S CLUB BUILDING

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I am unable to be with you for the 80th anniversary celebration of the Historic Dade City Women's Club Building. I know that you have worked long and hard to make this a successful event, and today's ceremony is clear proof that your efforts were successful. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the celebration because I have to vote in Congress in Washington, DC.

For nearly 100 years, the Women's Club has played a leading role in the Dade City community. From city beautification efforts, to educational seminars, to helping meet the needs of area residents during times of war, the Women's Club has many achievements of which to be proud.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the construction of the current Women's Club historic building. Since 1926, the clubhouse has been a meeting place for thousands of Pasco County women. Today, the site is used as a community center for area residents, in addition to being the home of the Dade City Women's Club.

A building with so much history within its walls, in 1985 the clubhouse was designated as an historical site by the Pasco Historical Society. In 2003 was added to the prestigious National Register of Historic Places. Generations of Pasco County women have called this building home, and today's anniversary celebration is a fitting testament to its beauty, longevity and historic value to the entire Dade City Community.

Although I was unable to attend the 80th anniversary celebration, I appreciate the Women's Club's continued support and commitment to the residents of Dade City. Keep up the good work and know that you have my thanks for improving the lives and economy of Pasco County residents.

RECOGNIZING BYRON DEVLIN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Byron Devlin, a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Byron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Byron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Byron held the principal leadership position of Senior Patrol Leader and has actively supported the ministry of Heartland Presbyterian Center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Byron Devlin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONDEMNING THE REPRESSION OF THE IRANIAN BAHAI COMMUNITY AND CALLING FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF IRANIAN BAHAI'S

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

[From Time Magazine, Sept. 17, 2006]

WHAT WOULD WAR LOOK LIKE?

(By Michael Duffy)

The first message was routine enough: a "Prepare to Deploy" order sent through naval communications channels to a submarine, an Aegis-class cruiser, two minesweepers and two mine hunters. The orders didn't actually command the ships out of port; they just said to be ready to move by Oct. 1. But inside the Navy those messages generated more buzz than usual last week when a second request, from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), asked for fresh eyes on long-standing U.S. plans to blockade two Iranian oil ports on the Persian Gulf. The CNO had asked for a rundown on how a blockade of those strategic targets might work. When he didn't like the analysis he received, he ordered his troops to work the lash up once again.

What's going on? The two orders offered tantalizing clues. There are only a few places in the world where minesweepers top the list of U.S. naval requirements. And every sailor, petroleum engineer and hedge-fund manager knows the name of the most important: the Strait of Hormuz, the 20-mile-wide bottleneck in the Persian Gulf through which roughly 40% of the world's oil needs to pass each day. Coupled with the CNO's request for a blockade review, a deployment of minesweepers to the west coast of Iran would seem to suggest that a much discussed—but until now largely theoretical—prospect has become real: that the U.S. may be preparing for war with Iran.

No one knows whether—let alone when—a military confrontation with Tehran will come to pass. The fact that admirals are reviewing plans for blockades is hardly proof of their intentions. The U.S. military routinely makes plans for scores of scenarios, the vast majority of which will never be put into practice. "Planners always plan," says a Pentagon official. Asked about the orders, a second official said only that the Navy is

stepping up its "listening and learning" in the Persian Gulf but nothing more—a prudent step, he added, after Iran tested surface-to-ship missiles there in August during a two-week military exercise. And yet from the State Department to the White House to the highest reaches of the military command, there is a growing sense that a showdown with Iran—over its suspected quest for nuclear weapons, its threats against Israel and its bid for dominance of the world's richest oil region—may be impossible to avoid. The chief of the U.S. Central Command (Centcom), General John Abizaid, has called a commanders conference for later this month in the Persian Gulf—sessions he holds at least quarterly—and Iran is on the agenda.

On its face, of course, the notion of a war with Iran seems absurd. By any rational measure, the last thing the U.S. can afford is another war. Two unfinished wars—one on Iran's eastern border, the other on its western flank—are daily depleting America's treasury and overworked armed forces. Most of Washington's allies in those adventures have made it clear they will not join another gamble overseas. What's more, the Bush team, led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, has done more diplomatic spadework on Iran than on any other project in its 5½ years in office. For more than 18 months, Rice has kept the Administration's hard-line faction at bay while leading a coalition that includes four other members of the U.N. Security Council and is trying to force Tehran to halt its suspicious nuclear ambitions. Even Iran's former President, Mohammed Khatami, was in Washington this month calling for a "dialogue" between the two nations.

But superpowers don't always get to choose their enemies or the timing of their confrontations. The fact that all sides would risk losing so much in armed conflict doesn't mean they won't stumble into one anyway. And for all the good arguments against any war now, much less this one, there are just as many indications that a genuine, eyeball-to-eyeball crisis between the U.S. and Iran may be looming, and sooner than many realize. "At the moment," says Ali Ansari, a top Iran authority at London's Chatham House, a foreign-policy think tank, "we are headed for conflict."

So what would it look like? Interviews with dozens of experts and government officials in Washington, Tehran and elsewhere in the Middle East paint a sobering picture: military action against Iran's nuclear facilities would have a decent chance of succeeding, but at a staggering cost. And there lies the excruciating calculus facing the U.S. and its allies: Is the cost of confronting Iran greater than the dangers of living with a nuclear Iran? And can anything short of war persuade Tehran's fundamentalist regime to give up its dangerous game?

ROAD TO WAR

The crisis with Iran has been years in the making. Over the past decade, Iran has acquired many of the pieces, parts and plants needed to make a nuclear device. Although Iranian officials insist that Iran's ambitions are limited to nuclear energy, the regime has asserted its right to develop nuclear power and enrich uranium that could be used in bombs as an end in itself—a symbol of sovereign pride, not to mention a useful prop for politicking. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has crisscrossed the country in recent months making Iran's right to a nuclear program a national cause and trying to solidify his base of hard-line support in the Revolutionary Guards. The nuclear program is popular with average Iranians and the elites as well. "Iranian leaders have this

sense of past glory, this belief that Iran should play a lofty role in the world," says Nasser Hadian, professor of political science at Tehran University.

But the nuclear program isn't Washington's only worry about Iran. While stoking nationalism at home, Tehran has dramatically consolidated its reach in the region. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has sponsored terrorist groups in a handful of countries, but its backing of Hizballah, the militant group that took Lebanon to war with Israel this summer, seems to be changing the Middle East balance of power. There is circumstantial evidence that Iran ordered Hizballah to provoke this summer's war, in part to demonstrate that Tehran can stir up big trouble if pushed to the brink. The precise extent of coordination between Hizballah and Tehran is unknown. But no longer in dispute after the standoff in July is Iran's ability to project power right up to the borders of Israel. It is no coincidence that the talk in Washington about what to do with Iran became more focused after Hizballah fought the Israeli army to a virtual standstill this summer.

And yet the West has been unable to compel Iran to comply with its demands. Despite all the work Rice has put into her coalition, diplomatic efforts are moving too slowly, some believe, to stop the Iranians before they acquire the makings of a nuclear device. And Iran has played its hand shrewdly so far. Tehran took weeks to reply to a formal proposal from the U.N. Security Council calling on a halt to uranium enrichment. When it did, its official response was a mosaic of half-steps, conditions and boilerplate that suggested Tehran has little intention of backing down. "The Iranians," says a Western diplomat in Washington, "are very able negotiators."

That doesn't make war inevitable. But at some point the U.S. and its allies may have to confront the ultimate choice. The Bush Administration has said it won't tolerate Iran having a nuclear weapon. Once it does, the regime will have the capacity to carry out Ahmadinejad's threats to eliminate Israel. And in practical terms, the U.S. would have to consider military action long before Iran had an actual bomb. In military circles, there is a debate about where—and when—to draw that line. U.S. intelligence chief John Negroponte told *TIME* in April that Iran is 5 years away from having a nuclear weapon. But some nonproliferation experts worry about a different moment: when Iran is able to enrich enough uranium to fuel a bomb—a point that comes well before engineers actually assemble a nuclear device. Many believe that is when a country becomes a nuclear power. That red line, experts say, could be just a year away.

WOULD AN ATTACK WORK?

The answer is yes and no.

No one is talking about a ground invasion of Iran. Too many U.S. troops are tied down elsewhere to make it possible, and besides, it isn't necessary. If the U.S. goal is simply to stunt Iran's nuclear program, it can be done better and more safely by air. An attack limited to Iran's nuclear facilities would nonetheless require a massive campaign. Experts say that Iran has between 18 and 30 nuclear-related facilities. The sites are dispersed around the country—some in the open, some cloaked in the guise of conventional factories, some buried deep underground.

A Pentagon official says that among the known sites there are 1,500 different "aim points," which means the campaign could well require the involvement of almost every type of aircraft in the U.S. arsenal: Stealth bombers and fighters, B-1s and B-2s, as well as F-15s and F-16s operating from land and F-18s from aircraft carriers.

GPS-guided munitions and laser-targeted bombs—sighted by satellite, spotter aircraft and unmanned vehicles—would do most of the bunker busting. But because many of the targets are hardened under several feet of reinforced concrete, most would have to be hit over and over to ensure that they were destroyed or sufficiently damaged. The U.S. would have to mount the usual aerial ballet, refueling tankers as well as search-and-rescue helicopters in case pilots were shot down by Iran's aging but possibly still effective air defenses. U.S. submarines and ships could launch cruise missiles as well, but their warheads are generally too small to do much damage to reinforced concrete—and might be used for secondary targets. An operation of that size would hardly be surgical. Many sites are in highly populated areas, so civilian casualties would be a certainty.

Whatever the order of battle, a U.S. strike would have a lasting impression on Iran's rulers. U.S. officials believe that a campaign of several days, involving hundreds or even thousands of sorties, could set back Iran's nuclear program by 2 to 3 years. Hit hard enough, some believe, Iranians might develop second thoughts about their government's designs as a regional nuclear power. Some U.S. foes of Iran's regime believe that the crisis of legitimacy that the ruling clerics would face in the wake of a U.S. attack could trigger their downfall, although others are convinced it would unite the population with the government in anti-American rage.

But it is also likely that the U.S. could carry out a massive attack and still leave Iran with some part of its nuclear program intact. It's possible that U.S. warplanes could destroy every known nuclear site—while Tehran's nuclear wizards, operating at other, undiscovered sites even deeper underground, continued their work. "We don't know where it all is," said a White House official, "so we can't get it all."

WHAT WOULD COME NEXT?

No one who has spent any time thinking about an attack on Iran doubts that a U.S. operation would reap a whirlwind. The only mystery is what kind. "It's not a question of whether we can do a strike or not and whether the strike could be effective," says retired Marine General Anthony Zinni. "It certainly would be, to some degree. But are you prepared for all that follows?"

Retired Air Force Colonel Sam Gardiner, who taught strategy at the National War College, has been conducting a mock U.S.-Iran war game for American policymakers for the past 5 years. Virtually every time he runs the game, Gardiner says, a similar nightmare scenario unfolds: the U.S. attack, no matter how successful, spawns a variety of asymmetrical retaliations by Tehran. First comes terrorism: Iran's initial reaction to air strikes might be to authorize a Hizballah attack on Israel, in order to draw Israel into the war and rally public support at home.

Next, Iran might try to foment as much mayhem as possible inside the two nations on its flanks, Afghanistan and Iraq, where more than 160,000 U.S. troops hold a tenuous grip on local populations. Iran has already dabbled in partnership with warlords in western Afghanistan, where U.S. military authority has never been strong; it would be a small step to lend aid to Taliban forces gaining strength in the south. Meanwhile, Tehran has links to the main factions in Iraq, which would welcome a boost in money and weapons, if just to strengthen their hand against rivals. Analysts generally believe that Iran could in a short time orchestrate a dramatic increase in the number and severity of attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq. As Syed Ayad, a secular Shi'ite cleric and Iraqi Member of Parliament says, "America owns the

sky of Iraq with their Apaches, but Iran owns the ground."

Next, there is oil. The Persian Gulf, a traffic jam on good days, would become a parking lot. Iran could plant mines and launch dozens of armed boats into the bottleneck, choking off the shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz and causing a massive disruption of oil-tanker traffic. A low-key Iranian mining operation in 1987 forced the U.S. to reflag Kuwaiti oil tankers and escort them, in slow-moving files of one and two, up and down the Persian Gulf. A more intense operation would probably send oil prices soaring above \$100 per bbl.—which may explain why the Navy wants to be sure its small fleet of minesweepers is ready to go into action at a moment's notice. It is unlikely that Iran would turn off its own oil spigot or halt its exports through pipelines overland, but it could direct its proxies in Iraq and Saudi Arabia to attack pipelines, wells and shipment points inside those countries, further choking supply and driving up prices.

That kind of retaliation could quickly transform a relatively limited U.S. mission in Iran into a much more complicated one involving regime change. An Iran determined to use all its available weapons to counterattack the U.S. and its allies would present a challenge to American prestige that no Commander in Chief would be likely to tolerate for long. Zinni, for one, believes an attack on Iran could eventually lead to U.S. troops on the ground. "You've got to be careful with your assumptions," he says. "In Iraq, the assumption was that it would be a liberation, not an occupation. You've got to be prepared for the worst case, and the worst case involving Iran takes you down to boots on the ground." All that, he says, makes an attack on Iran a "dumb idea." Abizaid, the current Centcom boss, chose his words carefully last May. "Look, any war with a country that is as big as Iran, that has a terrorist capability along its borders, that has a missile capability that is external to its own borders and that has the ability to affect the world's oil markets is something that everyone needs to contemplate with a great degree of clarity."

CAN IT BE STOPPED?

Given the chaos that a war might unleash, what options does the world have to avoid it? One approach would be for the U.S. to accept Iran as a nuclear power and learn to live with an Iranian bomb, focusing its efforts on deterrence rather than pre-emption. The risk is that a nuclear-armed Iran would use its regional primacy to become the dominant foreign power in Iraq, threaten Israel and make it harder for Washington to exert its will in the region. And it could provoke Sunni countries in the region, like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to start nuclear programs of their own to contain rising Shi'ite power.

Those equally unappetizing prospects—war or a new arms race in the Middle East—explain why the White House is kicking up its efforts to resolve the Iran problem before it gets that far. Washington is doing everything it can to make Iran think twice about its ongoing game of stonewall. It is a measure of the Administration's unity on Iran that confrontationalists like Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld have lately not wandered off the rhetorical reservation. Everyone has been careful—for now—to stick to Rice's diplomatic emphasis. "Nobody is considering a military option at this point," says an Administration official. "We're trying to prevent a situation in which the President finds himself having to decide between a nuclear-armed Iran or going to war. The best hope of avoiding that dilemma is hard-nosed diplomacy, one that has serious consequences."

Rice continues to try for that. This week in New York City, she will push her partners to get behind a new sanctions resolution that would ban Iranian imports of dual-use technologies, like parts for its centrifuge cascades for uranium enrichment, and bar travel overseas by certain government officials. The next step would be restrictions on government purchases of computer software and hardware, office supplies, tires and auto parts—steps Russia and China have signaled some reluctance to endorse. But even Rice's advisers don't believe that Iran can be persuaded to completely abandon its ambitions. Instead, they hope to tie Iran up in a series of suspensions, delays and negotiations until a more pragmatic faction of leadership in Tehran gains the upper hand.

At the moment, that sounds as much like a prayer as a strategy. A former CIA director, asked not long ago whether a moderate faction will ever emerge in Tehran, quipped, "I don't think I've ever met an Iranian moderate—not at the top of the government, anyway." But if sanctions don't work, what might? Outside the Administration, a growing group of foreign policy hands from both parties have called on the U.S. to bring Tehran into direct negotiations in the hope of striking a grand bargain. Under that formula, the U.S. might offer Iran some security guarantees—such as forswearing efforts to topple Iran's theocratic regime—in exchange for Iran's agreeing to open its facilities to international inspectors and abandon weapons-related projects. It would be painful for any U.S. Administration to recognize the legitimacy of a regime that sponsors terrorism and calls for Israel's destruction—but the time may come when that's the only bargaining chip short of war the U.S. has left. And still that may not be enough. "[The Iranians] would give up nuclear power if they truly believed the U.S. would accept Iran as it is," says a university professor in Tehran who asked not to be identified. "But the mistrust runs too deep for them to believe that is possible."

Such distrust runs both ways and is getting deeper. Unless the U.S., its allies and Iran can find a way to make diplomacy work, the whispers of blockades and minesweepers in the Persian Gulf may soon be drowned out by the cries of war. And if the U.S. has learned anything over the past 5 years, it's that war in the Middle East rarely goes according to plan.

[From antiwar.com, Feb. 11, 2005]

IRAN WAR DRUMS BEAT HARDER

(By Jim Lobe)

Despite the Bush administration's insistence that, at least for now, it remains committed to using diplomatic means to halt Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program, war drums against the Islamic Republic appear to be beating more loudly here.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice assured Europeans on her trip this past week that Washington does indeed support the efforts of France, Britain, and Germany (EU-3) to reach a diplomatic settlement on the issue. However, she also made it clear that Washington has no interest in joining them at the negotiating table or extending much in the way of carrots.

And her consistent refusal to reiterate former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage's flat assertion in December that Washington does not seek "regime change" in Tehran has added to the impression that the administration is set firmly on a path toward confrontation.

Whether the administration is pursuing a "good cop/bad cop" strategy—in which Washington's role is to brandish the sticks and the EU-3 the carrots—remains unclear, but

the voices in favor of an "engagement" policy are being drowned out by crescendo of calls to adopt "regime change" as U.S. policy.

The latest such urging was released here Thursday by the Iran Policy Committee (IPC), a group headed by a former National Security Council staffer Ray Tanter, several retired senior military officers, and a former ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The 30-page document, "U.S. Policy Options for Iran" by former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer Clare Lopez, appears to reflect the views of the administration's most radical hawks among the Pentagon's civilian leadership and in the office of Vice President Dick Cheney.

It was Cheney who launched the latest bout of saber-rattling when he told a radio interviewer last month that Tehran was "right at the top of the list" of the world's trouble spots and that Israel may strike at suspected Iranian nuclear sites even before the U.S.

The study echoes many of the same themes—mainly support for the Iranian exiled and internal opposition against the government—as another policy paper released by the mainly neoconservative Committee on the Present Danger (CPD) in December, but it is also much harsher.

Both papers favored military strikes against suspected nuclear and other weapons facilities if that was the only way to prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons, and endorsed "regime change" as U.S. policy.

But the CPD paper, which had the influential backing of former Secretary of State George Shultz, called for a "peaceful" strategy that involved elements of both engagement and nonviolent subversion similar to that pursued by Washington in Poland and elsewhere in Central Europe, particularly during the 1980s.

The latest report does grant a role for "carrots" in achieving a delay in Iran's nuclear ambitions and even in regime change, although the IPC's members expressed greater skepticism that the EU-3 talks will be effective or even desirable.

"Negotiations will not work," said Maj. Gen. (ret.) Paul Vallely, chairman of the military committee of the neoconservative Center for Security Policy, who described the Iranian regime as a "house of cards."

Instead, the IPC's main emphasis is on more aggressive actions to bring about the desired goals, including military strikes and active efforts to destabilize the government, in major part through the support and deployment of what it calls "indisputably the largest and most organized Iranian opposition group," the Mujahedin e-Khalq (MEK)—an idea that many Iran specialists here believe is likely to prove exceptionally counterproductive.

"[A]s an additional step [in a strategy of destabilization]," the paper states, "the United States might encourage the new Iraqi government to extend formal recognition to the MEK, based in Ashraf [Iraq], as a legitimate political organization. Such a recognition would send yet another signal from neighboring Iraq that the noose is tightening around Iran's unelected rulers."

The MEK fought on Iraq's side during the Iran-Iraq war and has been listed as a "terrorist group" by the State Department since 1997 as a result of its assassination of U.S. officials during the Shah's reign and of Iranian officials after the Revolution.

However, it has long been supported by the Pentagon civilians and Cheney's office, and their backers in Congress and the press as a possible asset against Iran despite its official "terrorist" status.

Indeed, there have been persistent reports, most recently from a former CIA officer,

Philip Giraldi, in the current edition of the American Conservative magazine, that U.S. Special Forces have been directing members of the group in carrying out reconnaissance and intelligence collection in Iran from bases in Afghanistan and Balochistan, Pakistan, since last summer as part of an effort to identify possible targets for military strikes.

After bombing MEK bases in the opening days of the Iraq invasion in March 2003, the U.S. military worked out a cease-fire agreement that resulted in the group's surrender of its heavy weapons and the concentration of about 4,000 of their members, some of whom have since repatriated voluntarily to Iran, at their base at Ashraf.

The State Department, which was then engaged in quiet talks with Iran about dispersing the group in exchange for Tehran's handing over prominent al-Qaeda members in its custody, clashed repeatedly with the Pentagon over the MEK's treatment.

After State was forced by the White House to break off its dialogue with Tehran following al Qaeda attacks in Saudi Arabia, allegedly ordered from somewhere on Iranian territory, the administration determined that MEK members in Iraq should be given Geneva Convention protections.

The IPC now wants the State Department to take the MEK off the terrorist list, a position backed by several dozen members of Congress who have been actively courted by the group and believe that a confrontation with Iran is inevitable.

"Removing the terrorist designation from the MEK could serve as the most tangible signal to the Iranian regime, as well as to the Iranian people, that a new option is now on the table," according to the report.

"Removal might also have the effect of supporting President Bush's assertion [in his State of the Union address] that America stands with the people of Iran in their struggle to liberate themselves."

But most Iran specialists, both inside and outside the government, who agree that the regime is deeply unpopular, also insist that Washington's endorsement of the MEK will actually bolster the regime in Tehran.

"Everybody I've ever talked to in Iran or who have gone to Iran tell me without exception that these people are despised," said Gary Sick, who handled Iranian policy for the National Security Council under former President Jimmy Carter.

When they invaded Iran from Iraq in the last year of the Iran-Iraq war, according to Sick, who teaches at Columbia University, they had expected to march straight to Tehran gathering support all along the way.

"But they never got beyond a little border town before running into stiff resistance. It was a very ugly incident. They had a chance to show what they can do, and the bottom line was nothing very much. I've seen nothing since then to change my estimate," he said.

[From the New Yorker, Apr. 17, 2006]

THE IRAN PLANS

(By Seymour M. Hersh)

The Bush Administration, while publicly advocating diplomacy in order to stop Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapon, has increased clandestine activities inside Iran and intensified planning for a possible major air attack. Current and former American military and intelligence officials said that Air Force planning groups are drawing up lists of targets, and teams of American combat troops have been ordered into Iran, under cover, to collect targeting data and to establish contact with anti-government ethnic-minority groups. The officials say that President Bush is determined to deny the

Iranian regime the opportunity to begin a pilot program, planned for this spring, to enrich uranium.

American and European intelligence agencies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A.), agree that Iran is intent on developing the capability to produce nuclear weapons. But there are widely differing estimates of how long that will take, and whether diplomacy, sanctions, or military action is the best way to prevent it. Iran insists that its research is for peaceful use only, in keeping with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and that it will not be delayed or deterred.

There is a growing conviction among members of the United States military, and in the international community, that President Bush's ultimate goal in the nuclear confrontation with Iran is regime change. Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has challenged the reality of the Holocaust and said that Israel must be "wiped off the map." Bush and others in the White House view him as a potential Adolf Hitler, a former senior intelligence official said. "That's the name they're using. They say, 'Will Iran get a strategic weapon and threaten another world war?'"

A government consultant with close ties to the civilian leadership in the Pentagon said that Bush was "absolutely convinced that Iran is going to get the bomb" if it is not stopped. He said that the President believes that he must do "what no Democrat or Republican, if elected in the future, would have the courage to do," and "that saving Iran is going to be his legacy."

One former defense official, who still deals with sensitive issues for the Bush Administration, told me that the military planning was premised on a belief that "a sustained bombing campaign in Iran will humiliate the religious leadership and lead the public to rise up and overthrow the government." He added, "I was shocked when I heard it, and asked myself, 'What are they smoking?'"

The rationale for regime change was articulated in early March by Patrick Clawson, an Iran expert who is the deputy director for research at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and who has been a supporter of President Bush. "So long as Iran has an Islamic republic, it will have a nuclear-weapons program, at least clandestinely," Clawson told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 2nd. "The key issue, therefore, is: How long will the present Iranian regime last?"

When I spoke to Clawson, he emphasized that "this Administration is putting a lot of effort into diplomacy." However, he added, Iran had no choice other than to accede to America's demands or face a military attack. Clawson said that he fears that Ahmadinejad "sees the West as wimps and thinks we will eventually cave in. We have to be ready to deal with Iran if the crisis escalates." Clawson said that he would prefer to rely on sabotage and other clandestine activities, such as "industrial accidents." But, he said, it would be prudent to prepare for a wider war, "given the way the Iranians are acting. This is not like planning to invade Quebec."

One military planner told me that White House criticisms of Iran and the high tempo of planning and clandestine activities amount to a campaign of "coercion" aimed at Iran. "You have to be ready to go, and we'll see how they respond," the officer said. "You have to really show a threat in order to get Ahmadinejad to back down." He added, "People think Bush has been focused on Saddam Hussein since 9/11," but, "in my view, if you had to name one nation that was his focus all the way along, it was Iran." (In response to detailed requests for comment, the

White House said that it would not comment on military planning but added, "As the President has indicated, we are pursuing a diplomatic solution"; the Defense Department also said that Iran was being dealt with through "diplomatic channels" but wouldn't elaborate on that; the C.I.A. said that there were "inaccuracies" in this account but would not specify them.)

"This is much more than a nuclear issue," one high-ranking diplomat told me in Vienna. "That's just a rallying point, and there is still time to fix it. But the Administration believes it cannot be fixed unless they control the hearts and minds of Iran. The real issue is who is going to control the Middle East and its oil in the next ten years."

A senior Pentagon adviser on the war on terror expressed a similar view. "This White House believes that the only way to solve the problem is to change the power structure in Iran, and that means war," he said. The danger, he said, was that "it also reinforces the belief inside Iran that the only way to defend the country is to have a nuclear capability." A military conflict that destabilized the region could also increase the risk of terror: "Hezbollah comes into play," the adviser said, referring to the terror group that is considered one of the world's most successful, and which is now a Lebanese political party with strong ties to Iran. "And here comes Al Qaeda."

In recent weeks, the President has quietly initiated a series of talks on plans for Iran with a few key senators and members of Congress, including at least one Democrat. A senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, who did not take part in the meetings but has discussed their content with his colleagues, told me that there had been "no formal briefings," because "they're reluctant to brief the minority. They're doing the Senate, somewhat selectively."

The House member said that no one in the meetings "is really objecting" to the talk of war. "The people they're briefing are the same ones who led the charge on Iraq. At most, questions are raised: How are you going to hit all the sites at once? How are you going to get deep enough?" (Iran is building facilities underground.) "There's no pressure from Congress" not to take military action, the House member added. "The only political pressure is from the guys who want to do it." Speaking of President Bush, the House member said, "The most worrisome thing is that this guy has a messianic vision."

Some operations, apparently aimed in part at intimidating Iran, are already under way. American Naval tactical aircraft, operating from carriers in the Arabian Sea, have been flying simulated nuclear-weapons delivery missions—rapid ascending maneuvers known as "over the shoulder" bombing—since last summer, the former official said, within range of Iranian coastal radars.

Last month, in a paper given at a conference on Middle East security in Berlin, Colonel Sam Gardiner, a military analyst who taught at the National War College before retiring from the Air Force, in 1987, provided an estimate of what would be needed to destroy Iran's nuclear program. Working from satellite photographs of the known facilities, Gardiner estimated that at least four hundred targets would have to be hit. He added:

I don't think a U.S. military planner would want to stop there. Iran probably has two chemical-production plants. We would hit those. We would want to hit the medium-range ballistic missiles that have just recently been moved closer to Iraq. There are fourteen airfields with sheltered aircraft. . . . We'd want to get rid of that threat. We would want to hit the assets that could be

used to threaten Gulf shipping. That means targeting the cruise-missile sites and the Iranian diesel submarines. . . . Some of the facilities may be too difficult to target even with penetrating weapons. The U.S. will have to use Special Operations units.

One of the military's initial option plans, as presented to the White House by the Pentagon this winter, calls for the use of a bunker-buster tactical nuclear weapon, such as the B61-11, against underground nuclear sites. One target is Iran's main centrifuge plant, at Natanz, nearly two hundred miles south of Tehran. Natanz, which is no longer under I.A.E.A. safeguards, reportedly has underground floor space to hold fifty thousand centrifuges, and laboratories and workspaces buried approximately seventy-five feet beneath the surface. That number of centrifuges could provide enough enriched uranium for about twenty nuclear warheads a year. (Iran has acknowledged that it initially kept the existence of its enrichment program hidden from I.A.E.A. inspectors, but claims that none of its current activity is barred by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.) The elimination of Natanz would be a major setback for Iran's nuclear ambitions, but the conventional weapons in the American arsenal could not insure the destruction of facilities under seventy-five feet of earth and rock, especially if they are reinforced with concrete.

There is a Cold War precedent for targeting deep underground bunkers with nuclear weapons. In the early nineteen-eighties, the American intelligence community watched as the Soviet government began digging a huge underground complex outside Moscow. Analysts concluded that the underground facility was designed for "continuity of government"—for the political and military leadership to survive a nuclear war. (There are similar facilities, in Virginia and Pennsylvania, for the American leadership.) The Soviet facility still exists, and much of what the U.S. knows about it remains classified. "The 'tell'—the giveaway—was the ventilator shafts, some of which were disguised," the former senior intelligence official told me. At the time, he said, it was determined that "only nukes" could destroy the bunker. He added that some American intelligence analysts believe that the Russians helped the Iranians design their underground facility. "We see a similarity of design," specifically in the ventilator shafts, he said.

A former high-level Defense Department official told me that, in his view, even limited bombing would allow the U.S. to "go in there and do enough damage to slow down the nuclear infrastructure—it's feasible." The former defense official said, "The Iranians don't have friends, and we can tell them that, if necessary, we'll keep knocking back their infrastructure. The United States should act like we're ready to go." He added, "We don't have to knock down all of their air defenses. Our stealth bombers and stand-off missiles really work, and we can blow fixed things up. We can do things on the ground, too, but it's difficult and very dangerous—put bad stuff in ventilator shafts and put them to sleep."

But those who are familiar with the Soviet bunker, according to the former senior intelligence official, "say 'No way.'"

You've got to know what's underneath—to know which ventilator feeds people, or diesel generators, or which are false. And there's a lot that we don't know." The lack of reliable intelligence leaves military planners, given the goal of totally destroying the sites, little choice but to consider the use of tactical nuclear weapons. "Every other option, in the view of the nuclear weaponers, would leave a gap," the former senior intelligence official said. "Decisive" is the key word of the

Air Force's planning. It's a tough decision. But we made it in Japan."

He went on, "Nuclear planners go through extensive training and learn the technical details of damage and fallout—we're talking about mushroom clouds, radiation, mass casualties, and contamination over years. This is not an underground nuclear test, where all you see is the earth raised a little bit. These politicians don't have a clue, and whenever anybody tries to get it out—remove the nuclear option—they're shouted down."

The attention given to the nuclear option has created serious misgivings inside the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he added, and some officers have talked about resigning. Late this winter, the Joint Chiefs of Staff sought to remove the nuclear option from the evolving war plans for Iran—without success, the former intelligence official said. "The White House said, 'Why are you challenging this? The option came from you.'"

The Pentagon adviser on the war on terror confirmed that some in the Administration were looking seriously at this option, which he linked to a resurgence of interest in tactical nuclear weapons among Pentagon civilians and in policy circles. He called it "a juggernaut that has to be stopped." He also confirmed that some senior officers and officials were considering resigning over the issue. "There are very strong sentiments within the military against brandishing nuclear weapons against other countries," the adviser told me. "This goes to high levels." The matter may soon reach a decisive point, he said, because the Joint Chiefs had agreed to give President Bush a formal recommendation stating that they are strongly opposed to considering the nuclear option for Iran. "The internal debate on this has hardened in recent weeks," the adviser said. "And, if senior Pentagon officers express their opposition to the use of offensive nuclear weapons, then it will never happen."

The adviser added, however, that the idea of using tactical nuclear weapons in such situations has gained support from the Defense Science Board, an advisory panel whose members are selected by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. "They're telling the Pentagon that we can build the B61 with more blast and less radiation," he said.

The chairman of the Defense Science Board is William Schneider, Jr., an Under-Secretary of State in the Reagan Administration. In January, 2001, as President Bush prepared to take office, Schneider served on an ad-hoc panel on nuclear forces sponsored by the National Institute for Public Policy, a conservative think tank. The panel's report recommended treating tactical nuclear weapons as an essential part of the U.S. arsenal and noted their suitability "for those occasions when the certain and prompt destruction of high priority targets is essential and beyond the promise of conventional weapons." Several signers of the report are now prominent members of the Bush Administration, including Stephen Hadley, the national-security adviser; Stephen Cambone, the Under-Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; and Robert Joseph, the Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

The Pentagon adviser questioned the value of air strikes. "The Iranians have distributed their nuclear activity very well, and we have no clue where some of the key stuff is. It could even be out of the country," he said. He warned, as did many others, that bombing Iran could provoke "a chain reaction" of attacks on American facilities and citizens throughout the world: "What will 1.2 billion Muslims think the day we attack Iran?"

With or without the nuclear option, the list of targets may inevitably expand. One

recently retired high-level Bush Administration official, who is also an expert on war planning, told me that he would have vigorously argued against an air attack on Iran, because "Iran is a much tougher target" than Iraq. But, he added, "If you're going to do any bombing to stop the nukes, you might as well improve your lie across the board. Maybe hit some training camps, and clear up a lot of other problems."

The Pentagon adviser said that, in the event of an attack, the Air Force intended to strike many hundreds of targets in Iran but that "ninety-nine percent of them have nothing to do with proliferation. There are people who believe it's the way to operate"—that the Administration can achieve its policy goals in Iran with a bombing campaign, an idea that has been supported by neoconservatives.

If the order were to be given for an attack, the American combat troops now operating in Iran would be in position to mark the critical targets with laser beams, to insure bombing accuracy and to minimize civilian casualties. As of early winter, I was told by the government consultant with close ties to civilians in the Pentagon, the units were also working with minority groups in Iran, including the Azeris, in the north, the Baluchis, in the southeast, and the Kurds, in the northeast. The troops "are studying the terrain, and giving away walking-around money to ethnic tribes, and recruiting scouts from local tribes and shepherds," the consultant said. One goal is to get "eyes on the ground"—quoting a line from "Othello," he said, "Give me the ocular proof." The broader aim, the consultant said, is to "encourage ethnic tensions" and undermine the regime.

The new mission for the combat troops is a product of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's long-standing interest in expanding the role of the military in covert operations, which was made official policy in the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, published in February. Such activities, if conducted by C.I.A. operatives, would need a Presidential Finding and would have to be reported to key members of Congress.

"Force protection" is the new buzzword," the former senior intelligence official told me. He was referring to the Pentagon's position that clandestine activities that can be broadly classified as preparing the battlefield or protecting troops are military, not intelligence, operations, and are therefore not subject to congressional oversight. "The guys in the Joint Chiefs of Staff say there are a lot of uncertainties in Iran," he said. "We need to have more than what we had in Iraq. Now we have the green light to do everything we want."

The President's deep distrust of Ahmadinejad has strengthened his determination to confront Iran. This view has been reinforced by allegations that Ahmadinejad, who joined a special-forces brigade of the Revolutionary Guards in 1986, may have been involved in terrorist activities in the late eighties. (There are gaps in Ahmadinejad's official biography in this period.) Ahmadinejad has reportedly been connected to Imad Mughniyeh, a terrorist who has been implicated in the deadly bombings of the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, in 1983. Mughniyeh was then the security chief of Hezbollah; he remains on the F.B.I.'s list of most-wanted terrorists.

Robert Baer, who was a C.I.A. officer in the Middle East and elsewhere for two decades, told me that Ahmadinejad and his Revolutionary Guard colleagues in the Iranian government "are capable of making a bomb, hiding it, and launching it at Israel. They're apocalyptic Shiites. If you're sitting in Tel Aviv and you believe they've got nukes and missiles—you've got to take them out. These

guys are nuts, and there's no reason to back off."

Under Ahmadinejad, the Revolutionary Guards have expanded their power base throughout the Iranian bureaucracy; by the end of January, they had replaced thousands of civil servants with their own members. One former senior United Nations official, who has extensive experience with Iran, depicted the turnover as "a white coup," with ominous implications for the West. "Professionals in the Foreign Ministry are out; others are waiting to be kicked out," he said. "We may be too late. These guys now believe that they are stronger than ever since the revolution." He said that, particularly in consideration of China's emergence as a superpower, Iran's attitude was "To hell with the West. You can do as much as you like."

Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, is considered by many experts to be in a stronger position than Ahmadinejad. "Ahmadinejad is not in control," one European diplomat told me. "Power is diffuse in Iran. The Revolutionary Guards are among the key backers of the nuclear program, but, ultimately, I don't think they are in charge of it. The Supreme Leader has the casting vote on the nuclear program, and the Guards will not take action without his approval."

The Pentagon adviser on the war on terror said that "allowing Iran to have the bomb is not on the table. We cannot have nukes being sent downstream to a terror network. It's just too dangerous." He added, "The whole internal debate is on which way to go"—in terms of stopping the Iranian program. It is possible, the adviser said, that Iran will unilaterally renounce its nuclear plans—and forestall the American action. "God may smile on us, but I don't think so. The bottom line is that Iran cannot become a nuclear-weapons state. The problem is that the Iranians realize that only by becoming a nuclear state can they defend themselves against the U.S. Something bad is going to happen."

While almost no one disputes Iran's nuclear ambitions, there is intense debate over how soon it could get the bomb, and what to do about that. Robert Gallucci, a former government expert on nonproliferation who is now the dean of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown, told me, "Based on what I know, Iran could be eight to ten years away" from developing a deliverable nuclear weapon. Gallucci added, "If they had a covert nuclear program and we could prove it, and we could not stop it by negotiation, diplomacy, or the threat of sanctions, I'd be in favor of taking it out. But if you do it"—bomb Iran—"without being able to show there's a secret program, you're in trouble."

Meir Dagan, the head of Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, told the Knesset last December that "Iran is one to two years away, at the latest, from having enriched uranium. From that point, the completion of their nuclear weapon is simply a technical matter." In a conversation with me, a senior Israeli intelligence official talked about what he said was Iran's duplicity: "There are two parallel nuclear programs" inside Iran—the program declared to the I.A.E.A. and a separate operation, run by the military and the Revolutionary Guards. Israeli officials have repeatedly made this argument, but Israel has not produced public evidence to support it. Richard Armitage, the Deputy Secretary of State in Bush's first term, told me, "I think Iran has a secret nuclear-weapons program—I believe it, but I don't know it."

In recent months, the Pakistani government has given the U.S. new access to A.Q. Khan, the so-called father of the Pakistani atomic bomb. Khan, who is now living under house arrest in Islamabad, is accused of set-

ting up a black market in nuclear materials; he made at least one clandestine visit to Tehran in the late nineteen-eighties. In the most recent interrogations, Khan has provided information on Iran's weapons design and its time line for building a bomb. "The picture is of 'unquestionable danger,'" the former senior intelligence official said. (The Pentagon adviser also confirmed that Khan has been "singing like a canary.") The concern, the former senior official said, is that "Khan has credibility problems. He is suggestible, and he's telling the neoconservatives what they want to hear"—or what might be useful to Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, who is under pressure to assist Washington in the war on terror.

"I think Khan's leading us on," the former intelligence official said. "I don't know anybody who says, 'Here's the smoking gun.' But lights are beginning to blink. He's feeding us information on the time line, and targeting information is coming in from our own sources—sensors and the covert teams. The C.I.A., which was so burned by Iraqi W.M.D., is going to the Pentagon and the Vice-President's office saying, 'It's all new stuff.' People in the Administration are saying, 'We've got enough.'"

The Administration's case against Iran is compromised by its history of promoting false intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. In a recent essay on the Foreign Policy Web site, entitled "Fool Me Twice," Joseph Cirincione, the director for non-proliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote, "The unfolding administration strategy appears to be an effort to repeat its successful campaign for the Iraq war." He noted several parallels:

The vice president of the United States gives a major speech focused on the threat from an oil-rich nation in the Middle East. The U.S. Secretary of State tells Congress that the same nation is our most serious global challenge. The Secretary of Defense calls that nation the leading supporter of global terrorism.

Cirincione called some of the Administration's claims about Iran "questionable" or lacking in evidence. When I spoke to him, he asked, "What do we know? What is the threat? The question is: How urgent is all this?" The answer, he said, "is in the intelligence community and the I.A.E.A." (In August, the Washington Post reported that the most recent comprehensive National Intelligence Estimate predicted that Iran was a decade away from being a nuclear power.)

Last year, the Bush Administration briefed I.A.E.A. officials on what it said was new and alarming information about Iran's weapons program which had been retrieved from an Iranian's laptop. The new data included more than a thousand pages of technical drawings of weapons systems. The Washington Post reported that there were also designs for a small facility that could be used in the uranium-enrichment process. Leaks about the laptop became the focal point of stories in the Times and elsewhere. The stories were generally careful to note that the materials could have been fabricated, but also quoted senior American officials as saying that they appeared to be legitimate. The headline in the Times' account read, "Relying on Computer, U.S. Seeks to Prove Iran's Nuclear Aims".

I was told in interviews with American and European intelligence officials, however, that the laptop was more suspect and less revelatory than it had been depicted. The Iranian who owned the laptop had initially been recruited by German and American intelligence operatives, working together. The Americans eventually lost interest in him. The Germans kept on, but the Iranian was seized by the Iranian counter-intelligence

force. It is not known where he is today. Some family members managed to leave Iran with his laptop and handed it over at a U.S. embassy, apparently in Europe. It was a classic "walk-in."

A European intelligence official said, "There was some hesitation on our side" about what the materials really proved, "and we are still not convinced." The drawings were not meticulous, as newspaper accounts suggested, "but had the character of sketches," the European official said. "It was not a slam-dunk smoking gun."

The threat of American military action has created dismay at the headquarters of the I.A.E.A., in Vienna. The agency's officials believe that Iran wants to be able to make a nuclear weapon, but "nobody has presented an inch of evidence of a parallel nuclear-weapons program in Iran," the high-ranking diplomat told me. The I.A.E.A.'s best estimate is that the Iranians are five years away from building a nuclear bomb. "But, if the United States does anything militarily, they will make the development of a bomb a matter of Iranian national pride," the diplomat said. "The whole issue is America's risk assessment of Iran's future intentions, and they don't trust the regime. Iran is a menace to American policy."

In Vienna, I was told of an exceedingly testy meeting earlier this year between Mohamed ElBaradei, the I.A.E.A.'s director-general, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year, and Robert Joseph, the Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control. Joseph's message was blunt, one diplomat recalled: "We cannot have a single centrifuge spinning in Iran. Iran is a direct threat to the national security of the United States and our allies, and we will not tolerate it. We want you to give us an understanding that you will not say anything publicly that will undermine us."

Joseph's heavy-handedness was unnecessary, the diplomat said, since the I.A.E.A. already had been inclined to take a hard stand against Iran. "All of the inspectors are angry at being misled by the Iranians, and some think the Iranian leadership are nutcases—one hundred percent totally certified nuts," the diplomat said. He added that El Baradei's overriding concern is that the Iranian leaders "want confrontation, just like the neocons on the other side"—in Washington. "At the end of the day, it will work only if the United States agrees to talk to the Iranians."

The central question—whether Iran will be able to proceed with its plans to enrich uranium—is now before the United Nations, with the Russians and the Chinese reluctant to impose sanctions on Tehran. A discouraged former I.A.E.A. official told me in late March that, at this point, "there's nothing the Iranians could do that would result in a positive outcome. American diplomacy does not allow for it. Even if they announce a stoppage of enrichment, nobody will believe them. It's a dead end."

Another diplomat in Vienna asked me, "Why would the West take the risk of going to war against that kind of target without giving it to the I.A.E.A. to verify? We're low-cost, and we can create a program that will force Iran to put its cards on the table." A Western Ambassador in Vienna expressed similar distress at the White House's dismissal of the I.A.E.A. He said, "If you don't believe that the I.A.E.A. can establish an inspection system—if you don't trust them—you can only bomb."

There is little sympathy for the I.A.E.A. in the Bush Administration or among its European allies. "We're quite frustrated with the director-general," the European diplomat told me. "His basic approach has been to describe this as a dispute between two sides

with equal weight. It's not. We're the good guys! ElBaradei has been pushing the idea of letting Iran have a small nuclear-enrichment program, which is ludicrous. It's not his job to push ideas that pose a serious proliferation risk."

The Europeans are rattled, however, by their growing perception that President Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney believe a bombing campaign will be needed, and that their real goal is regime change. "Everyone is on the same page about the Iranian bomb, but the United States wants regime change," a European diplomatic adviser told me. He added, "The Europeans have a role to play as long as they don't have to choose between going along with the Russians and the Chinese or going along with Washington on something they don't want. Their policy is to keep the Americans engaged in something the Europeans can live with. It may be untenable."

"The Brits think this is a very bad idea," Flynt Leverett, a former National Security Council staff member who is now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center, told me, "but they're really worried we're going to do it." The European diplomatic adviser acknowledged that the British Foreign Office was aware of war planning in Washington but that, "short of a smoking gun, it's going to be very difficult to line up the Europeans on Iran." He said that the British "are jumpy about the Americans going full bore on the Iranians, with no compromise."

The European diplomat said that he was skeptical that Iran, given its record, had admitted to everything it was doing, but "to the best of our knowledge the Iranian capability is not at the point where they could successfully run centrifuges" to enrich uranium in quantity. One reason for pursuing diplomacy was, he said, Iran's essential pragmatism. "The regime acts in its best interests," he said. Iran's leaders "take a hard-line approach on the nuclear issue and they want to call the American bluff," believing that "the tougher they are the more likely the West will fold." But, he said, "From what we've seen with Iran, they will appear superconfident until the moment they back off."

The diplomat went on, "You never reward bad behavior, and this is not the time to offer concessions. We need to find ways to impose sufficient costs to bring the regime to its senses. It's going to be a close call, but I think if there is unity in opposition and the price imposed—in sanctions—is sufficient, they may back down. It's too early to give up on the U.N. route." He added, "If the diplomatic process doesn't work, there is no military solution." There may be a military option, but the impact could be catastrophic."

Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, was George Bush's most dependable ally in the year leading up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq. But he and his party have been racked by a series of financial scandals, and his popularity is at a low point. Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, said last year that military action against Iran was "inconceivable." Blair has been more circumspect, saying publicly that one should never take options off the table.

Other European officials expressed similar skepticism about the value of an American bombing campaign. "The Iranian economy is in bad shape, and Ahmadinejad is in bad shape politically," the European intelligence official told me. "He will benefit politically from American bombing. You can do it, but the results will be worse." An American attack, he said, would alienate ordinary Iranians, including those who might be sympathetic to the U.S. "Iran is no longer living in

the Stone Age, and the young people there have access to U.S. movies and books, and they love it," he said. "If there was a charm offensive with Iran, the mullahs would be in trouble in the long run."

Another European official told me that he was aware that many in Washington wanted action. "It's always the same guys," he said, with a resigned shrug. "There is a belief that diplomacy is doomed to fail. The timetable is short."

A key ally with an important voice in the debate is Israel, whose leadership has warned for years that it viewed any attempt by Iran to begin enriching uranium as a point of no return. I was told by several officials that the White House's interest in preventing an Israeli attack on a Muslim country, which would provoke a backlash across the region, was a factor in its decision to begin the current operational planning. In a speech in Cleveland on March 20th, President Bush depicted Ahmadinejad's hostility toward Israel as a "serious threat. It's a threat to world peace." He added, "I made it clear, I'll make it clear again, that we will use military might to protect our ally Israel."

Any American bombing attack, Richard Armitage told me, would have to consider the following questions: "What will happen in the other Islamic countries? What ability does Iran have to reach us and touch us globally—that is, terrorism? Will Syria and Lebanon up the pressure on Israel? What does the attack do to our already diminished international standing? And what does this mean for Russia, China, and the U.N. Security Council?"

Iran, which now produces nearly four million barrels of oil a day, would not have to cut off production to disrupt the world's oil markets. It could blockade or mine the Strait of Hormuz, the 34-mile-wide passage through which Middle Eastern oil reaches the Indian Ocean. Nonetheless, the recently retired defense official dismissed the strategic consequences of such actions. He told me that the U.S. Navy could keep shipping open by conducting salvage missions and putting minesweepers to work. "It's impossible to block passage," he said. The government consultant with ties to the Pentagon also said he believed that the oil problem could be managed, pointing out that the U.S. has enough in its strategic reserves to keep America running for sixty days. However, those in the oil business I spoke to were less optimistic; one industry expert estimated that the price per barrel would immediately spike, to anywhere from ninety to a hundred dollars per barrel, and could go higher, depending on the duration and scope of the conflict.

Michel Samaha, a veteran Lebanese Christian politician and former cabinet minister in Beirut, told me that the Iranian retaliation might be focused on exposed oil and gas fields in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. "They would be at risk," he said, "and this could begin the real jihad of Iran versus the West. You will have a messy world."

Iran could also initiate a wave of terror attacks in Iraq and elsewhere, with the help of Hezbollah. On April 2nd, the Washington Post reported that the planning to counter such attacks "is consuming a lot of time" at U.S. intelligence agencies. "The best terror network in the world has remained neutral in the terror war for the past several years," the Pentagon adviser on the war on terror said of Hezbollah. "This will mobilize them and put us up against the group that drove Israel out of southern Lebanon. If we move against Iran, Hezbollah will not sit on the sidelines. Unless the Israelis take them out, they will mobilize against us." (When I asked the government consultant about that

possibility, he said that, if Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel, "Israel and the new Lebanese government will finish them off.")

The adviser went on, "If we go, the southern half of Iraq will light up like a candle." The American, British, and other coalition forces in Iraq would be at greater risk of attack from Iranian troops or from Shiite militias operating on instructions from Iran. (Iran, which is predominantly Shiite, has close ties to the leading Shiite parties in Iraq.) A retired four-star general told me that, despite the eight thousand British troops in the region, "the Iranians could take Basra with ten mullahs and one sound truck."

"If you attack," the high-ranking diplomat told me in Vienna, "Ahmadinejad will be the new Saddam Hussein of the Arab world, but with more credibility and more power. You must bite the bullet and sit down with the Iranians."

The diplomat went on, "There are people in Washington who would be unhappy if we found a solution. They are still banking on isolation and regime change. This is wishful thinking." He added, "The window of opportunity is now."

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY,
September 12, 2006.

Hon. PETER HOEKSTRA,
Chairman, House of Representatives, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

SIR: I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Staff Report of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy, dated 23 August 2006, entitled "Recognizing Iran as a Strategic Threat: An Intelligence Challenge for the United States", contains some erroneous, misleading and unsubstantiated information.

The caption under the photograph of the Natanz site on page 9 of the report states that "Iran is currently enriching uranium to weapons grade using a 164-machine centrifuge cascade". In this regard, please be informed that information about the uranium enrichment work being carried out at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) at Natanz, including the 3.6% enrichment level that had been achieved by Iran, was provided to the IAEA Board of Governors by the Director General in April 2006 (see GOV/2006/27, paragraph 31). The description of this enrichment level as "weapons grade" is incorrect, since the term "weapon-grade" is commonly used to refer to uranium enriched to the order of 90% or more in the isotope of uranium-235. The Director General's April 2006 report, as well as all of his other reports on the implementation of the safeguards in Iran, are posted on the IAEA's website at <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/laeaIran>.

The first bullet on page 10 states that "Iran had covertly produced the short-lived radioactive element polonium-210 (Po-210), a substance with two known uses; a neutron source for a nuclear weapon and satellite batteries". The use of the phrase "covertly produced" is misleading because the production of Po-210 is not required to be reported by Iran to the IAEA under the NPT safeguards agreement concluded between Iran and the IAEA (published in IAEA document INFCIRC/214). (Regarding the production of Po-210, please refer to the report provided to the Board of Governors by the Director General in November 2004 (GOV/2004/83, paragraph 80)).

Furthermore, the IAEA Secretariat takes strong exception to the incorrect and misleading assertion in the Staff Report's second full paragraph of page 13 that the Director of the IAEA decided to "remove" Mr. Charlier, a senior safeguards inspector of the IAEA, "for allegedly raising concerns about Iranian deception regarding its nuclear program and concluding that the purpose of Iran's nuclear programme is to construct weapons". In addition, the report contains an outrageous and dishonest suggestion that such removal might have been for "not having adhered to an unstated IAEA policy barring IAEA officials from telling the whole truth about the Iranian nuclear program".

In this regard, please be advised that all safeguards agreements concluded between a State and the IAEA in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons require the IAEA to secure acceptance by the State of the designation of IAEA safeguards inspectors, before such inspectors may be sent to the State on inspection (INF-CIRC/153 (Corr.), paragraphs 9 and 85). Under such agreements, each State has the right to object to the designation of any safeguards inspector, and to request the withdrawal of the designation of an inspector, at any time, for that State (<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infircs>). Accordingly, Iran's request to the Director General to withdraw the designation of Mr. Charlier authorizing him to carry out safeguards inspections in Iran, was based on paragraph (a)(i) of Article 9 and paragraph (d) of Article 85 of Iran's Safeguards Agreement. I should also like to note here that Iran has accepted the designation of more than 200 Agency safeguards inspectors, which number is similar to that accepted by the majority of non-nuclear weapon States that have concluded safeguards agreements pursuant to the NPT.

Finally, it is also regrettable that the Staff Report did not take into account the views of the United Nations Security Council, as expressed in resolution 1696 (2006), which inter alia, "commends and encourages the Director General of the IAEA and its secretariat for their ongoing professional and impartial efforts to resolve all remaining outstanding issues in Iran within the framework of the Agency."

While it is unfortunate that the authors of the Staff Report did not consult with the IAEA Secretariat stands ready to assist your Committee in correcting the erroneous and misleading information contained in the report.

Yours sincerely,

VILMOS CSERVENY,
Director, Office of External Relations
and Policy Coordination.

[From washingtonpost.com, Sept. 14, 2006]
U.N. INSPECTORS DISPUTE IRAN REPORT BY
HOUSE PANEL
(By Dafna Linzer)

U.N. inspectors investigating Iran's nuclear program angrily complained to the Bush administration and to a Republican congressman yesterday about a recent House committee report on Iran's capabilities, calling parts of the document "outrageous and dishonest" and offering evidence to refute its central claims.

Officials of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency said in a letter that the report contained some "erroneous, misleading and unsubstantiated statements." The letter, signed by a senior director at the agency, was addressed to Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.), chairman of the House intelligence committee, which issued the report. A copy was hand-delivered to Gregory L. Schulte, the U.S. ambassador to the IAEA in Vienna.

The IAEA openly clashed with the Bush administration on pre-war assessments of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Relations all but collapsed when the agency revealed that the White House had based some allegations about an Iraqi nuclear program on forged documents.

After no such weapons were found in Iraq, the IAEA came under additional criticism for taking a cautious approach on Iran, which the White House says is trying to building nuclear weapons in secret. At one point, the administration orchestrated a campaign to remove the IAEA's director general, Mohamed El Baradei. It failed, and he won the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Yesterday's letter, a copy of which was provided to The Washington Post, was the first time the IAEA has publicly disputed U.S. allegations about its Iran investigation. The agency noted five major errors in the committee's 29-page report, which said Iran's nuclear capabilities are more advanced than either the IAEA or U.S. intelligence has shown.

Among the committee's assertions is that Iran is producing weapons-grade uranium at its facility in the town of Natanz. The IAEA called that "incorrect," noting that weapons-grade uranium is enriched to a level of 90 percent or more. Iran has enriched uranium to 3.5 percent under IAEA monitoring.

When the congressional report was released last month, Hoekstra said his intent was "to help increase the American public's understanding of Iran as a threat." Spokesman Jamal Ware said yesterday that Hoekstra will respond to the IAEA letter.

Rep. Rush D. Holt (D-N.J.), a committee member, said the report was "clearly not prepared in a manner that we can rely on." He agreed to send it to the full committee for review, but the Republicans decided to make it public before then, he said in an interview.

The report was never voted on or discussed by the full committee. Rep. Jane Harman (Calif.), the vice chairman, told Democratic colleagues in a private e-mail that the report "took a number of analytical shortcuts that present the Iran threat as more dire—and the Intelligence Community's assessments as more certain—than they are."

Privately, several intelligence officials said the committee report included at least a dozen claims that were either demonstrably wrong or impossible to substantiate. Hoekstra's office said the report was reviewed by the office of John D. Negroponte, the director of national intelligence.

Negroponte's spokesman, John Callahan, said in a statement that his office "reviewed the report and provided its response to the committee on July 24, '06." He did not say whether it had approved or challenged any of the claims about Iran's capabilities.

"This is like prewar Iraq all over again," said David Albright, a former nuclear inspector who is president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security. "You have an Iranian nuclear threat that is spun up, using bad information that's cherry-picked and a report that trashes the inspectors."

The committee report, written by a single Republican staffer with a hard-line position on Iran, chastised the CIA and other agencies for not providing evidence to back assertions that Iran is building nuclear weapons.

It concluded that the lack of intelligence made it impossible to support talks with Tehran. Democrats on the committee saw it as an attempt from within conservative Republican circles to undermine Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who has agreed to talk with the Iranians under certain conditions.

The report's author, Fredrick Fleitz, is a onetime CIA officer and special assistant to

John R. Bolton, the administration's former point man on Iran at the State Department. Bolton, who is now ambassador to the United Nations, had been highly influential during President Bush's first term in drawing up a tough policy that rejected talks with Tehran.

Among the allegations in Fleitz's Iran report is that ElBaradei removed a senior inspector from the Iran investigation because he raised "concerns about Iranian deception regarding its nuclear program." The agency said the inspector has not been removed.

A suggestion that ElBaradei had an "unstated" policy that prevented inspectors from telling the truth about Iran's program was particularly "outrageous and dishonest," according to the IAEA letter, which was signed by Vilmos Cserveny, the IAEA's director for external affairs and a former Hungarian ambassador.

Hoekstra's committee is working on a separate report about North Korea that is also being written principally by Fleitz. A draft of the report, provided to The Post, includes several assertions about North Korea's weapons program that the intelligence officials said they cannot substantiate, including one that Pyongyang is already enriching uranium.

The intelligence community believes North Korea is trying to acquire an enrichment capability but has no proof that an enrichment facility has been built, the officials said.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2006.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: According to the Washington Post ("U.N. Inspectors Dispute Iran Report by House Panel," September 14, 2006), the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) conducted a prepublication review of a House Intelligence Committee staff report on Iran which has come under scrutiny for making false, misleading and unsubstantiated assertions about Iran's nuclear program.

In the article, a spokesperson for the DNI confirmed that the agency did review the report prior to its publication. Yet, the final committee staff report "included at least a dozen claims that were either demonstrably wrong or impossible to substantiate," including the gross exaggeration that the level of uranium enrichment by Iranian nuclear plants has now reached "weapons-grade" levels of 90 percent when in reality the correct enrichment level found by the International Atomic Energy Agency was 3.6 percent. (Letter from IAEA Director of External Relations and Policy Coordination Vilmos Cserveny to Chairman Peter Hoekstra, September 12, 2006.)

The publication of false, misleading and unsubstantiated statements by a House Committee is regrettable, but the role of the DNI raises important questions:

(1) Was the text of the report given to DNI for review identical to the text later released to the public by the Committee?

(2) Did the DNI recognize those claims made in the report that were wrong or impossible to substantiate at the time DNI conducted its prepublication review?

(3) During its review, did DNI also note the same false, misleading and unsubstantiated statements as those deemed by the IAEA in its letter to the Committee to be wrong or impossible to substantiate?

(4) In its response to the Committee, did DNI state the inaccuracies it found, and seek correction or clarification of those parts of the prepublication report?

(5) Did the DNI approve the report, in spite of false and exaggerated claims made in the report?

There are troubling signs, which this Subcommittee has attempted to investigate, that the Administration is leading the U.S. toward a military conflict with Iran.

In June, our Subcommittee held a classified members briefing, at my request, to investigate independent reports published in the New Yorker magazine and the Guardian that U.S. military personnel have been or are already deployed inside and around Iran, gathering intelligence and targeting information, and reports published in Newsweek, ABC News and GQ magazine, that the U.S. has been planning and is now recruiting members of MEK to conduct lethal operations and destabilizing operations inside Iran.

Unfortunately, neither the Department of State nor the Department of Defense chose to appear for the classified briefing. Nearly three months later, the Subcommittee has been unable to question State or DOD directly on those reports. However, this Subcommittee was briefed by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and I believe that the Subcommittee should use its oversight authority to compare the statements and information provided to Members about Iran's nuclear program at the briefing, with information provided to the House Intelligence Committee for their report.

These are precisely the sort of questions this Subcommittee is designed to pursue. The latest report implicating DNI passivity or complicity in embellishing the danger of the Iranian nuclear program should be aggressively investigated by our Subcommittee immediately. We cannot and must not permit this Administration to build a case for war against Iran on falsehoods and pretext. We have seen similar patterns with the twisting of intelligence to create a war against Iraq and we must not let this happen again. I ask that the Subcommittee invite the DNI to appear immediately before the Committee. It is imperative that our questions be answered in an expeditious manner.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Ranking Minority Member.

CONGRATULATING SPELMAN COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to join with my colleagues in congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

One of our country's most distinguished colleges, this historically Black college for women founded in 1881 by Harriet E. Giles and Sophia B. Packard in Atlanta, Georgia, was ranked this year by U.S. News & World Report as being among the top 75 Best Liberal Arts Colleges.

Since its inception, Spelman College has provided women with access to education since the post-Civil War era, promoting academic excellence in the liberal arts and developing the intellectual, ethical, and leadership potential of its students. As a member of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) consortium, Spelman students enjoy the benefits of a small college while having access to the fac-

ulty and physical resources of five other historically black institutions.

Spelman College has grown from its roots as the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary, to become one of the Nation's most prominent institutions of higher learning promoting both academic excellence and leadership development.

Spelman's steadfast commitment to preparing black women for service and leadership is clearly evident in the more than six generations of Spelman women who have reached the highest levels of academic, community, and professional achievement.

Spelman's most notable alumnae include Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund; Ruth A. Davis, director general of the U.S. Foreign Service; Aurelia Brazeal, U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia; and Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist.

Spelman can well be proud of its achievements and exemplary service not only to its students, but to the City of Atlanta. May this outstanding college enjoy many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER KATHRYN SCHLUETER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exceptional constituent and community leader, Sister Kathryn Schlueter, CSJ, of Southampton, New York, who has dedicated herself to Catholic education on Long Island for nearly 40 years.

Sister Kathy, as she is affectionately known, joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1963. After graduation from Brentwood College with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1967, she began her teaching career at the Saint Patrick School located in Smithtown, Long Island. Sister Kathy subsequently received her Masters in Educational Administration from Hofstra University in 1977 while continuing her teaching career at the Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead, Long Island.

In 1987, Sister Kathy arrived on the east end of Long Island as Principal of Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School in Southampton where she has worked faithfully to improve the quality of that institution for the past 20 years.

Under Sister Kathy's diligent stewardship, Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School has been designated as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education and has received further accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. As Our Lady of the Hamptons prepares to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary as a Regional Catholic School, Sister Kathy should be recognized as the driving force behind its success.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I express our sincere appreciation to Sister Kathy for her extraordinary commitment to excellence in education. We wish her continued success and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING SPECTROLAB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague BRAD SHERMAN (CA-27) to pay tribute to Spectrolab, a subsidiary of the Boeing Company, on its 50th anniversary and to celebrate the delivery of its two millionth solar cell. We are honored to represent many of Spectrolab's employees and are proud of their great accomplishments.

Spectrolab is the world's leading manufacturer of space solar cells and solar panels. Throughout the years, Spectrolab solar cells and solar panels have powered more than 500 satellites and interplanetary missions, including the Spirit and Opportunity rovers, which are still exploring the surface of Mars. Also, all of the solar panels on spacecraft on Mars are manufactured by Spectrolab.

In 1956, Spectrolab was founded by a group of engineers who began providing high-quality optical filters and mirrors for government systems. In 1958, Pioneer 1 carried the company's first body-mounted solar panels into space. Shortly thereafter, Explorer 6 was the first satellite to use Spectrolab's solar arrays, and Spectrolab's first solar cell panel was placed on the moon by Apollo's mission in 1969. Galaxy 111C, the world's highest capacity satellite, launched on June 15, 2002 carrying the latest solar cell technology developed and manufactured at Spectrolab. Its contributions to the space industry cannot be overstated.

Spectrolab is well respected in its industry and has received a myriad of well deserved accolades. NASA's George M. Low Award for Supplier Quality and Excellence was given to Spectrolab in 2004. Also, Spectrolab's multi-junction cells were inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame by the United States Space Foundation that same year.

Currently, Spectrolab scientists are working to build and test solar cells for concentrator systems that may one day generate inexpensive and renewable electricity for America's cities and towns. Their expertise in space photovoltaic products earned Boeing the contract to build solar concentrator cells for a leading renewable energy company.

Spectrolab's product portfolio includes terrestrial concentrator solar cells and panels, searchlight systems, solar simulators and photodetector products. More than 90 percent of all law enforcement aircraft and helicopters worldwide use Spectrolab's Nightsun searchlights.

It is with pleasure and gratitude that we salute Spectrolab for its extraordinary accomplishments over the past fifty years.

TERRORIST ATTACKS ON 9/11

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than five years since the terrorist attacks of September 11. In looking back, we have

made great progress uprooting the terrorists from their havens and liberating millions of people. We also have provided our law enforcement and intelligence agencies with new tools to combat these threats.

Yet, there is so much more to do. We are at war against terror and we must protect our borders. If we cannot control our borders, how can we prevent those who would murder us from entering our nation?

Millions attempt to enter our nation illegally every year, and many are apprehended. I commend our border patrol for their fine work under difficult conditions. However, millions have crossed the border successfully in the past five years, and we do not know how many are terrorists.

Our borders are another battlefield in the War on Terror.

THE CHARLES B. RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the presence in the House of the participants in an important and exciting program today, The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, and to welcome these extraordinary young people to their period of service in the Congress. The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program was initiated from my desire that the State Department's Diplomatic Corps abroad would reflect the rich diversity represented by the American people at home. The program presents young adults from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to learn, participate, and become a part of the United States' diplomatic corps.

This program is a successful collaboration between the Congress, the State department, and Howard University, which administers the program with a cross-section of colleges and universities across the country. Former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell introduced the program on May 17, 2002 at a State Department ceremony and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has expressed her profound support for continuing and expanding this initiative.

In the last 2 years, the components of the Rangel Program were reviewed and evaluated by the State Department and were found to satisfy the stringent requirement for inclusion in the Department's prestigious Diplomacy Fellows Program. This milestone achievement has included the program in the distinguished ranks of such programs as the Presidential Management Interns, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Boren, Fawcett, and Pickering Fellows Programs. As a result, fellows who successfully complete the Rangel Program and the State Department requirements will automatically receive employment offers and appointments to the Foreign Service.

In addition, I would like to personally welcome the 2006 Charles B. Rangel Fellows to Capitol Hill. We currently have Jacob Choi, a graduate of Brigham Young University, who will attend Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in the Fall, serving Rep. ELIOT

ENGEL's office; Christopher Hartfield, a graduate of Stanford University, who will attend Tufts's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the Fall, serving in Rep. ADAM B. SCHIFF's office; Teresa Williamson a graduate of Dillard University who will attend Yale University in the Fall, serving in Rep. DONALD M. PAYNE's office; Sara Marti a graduate of the University of Central Florida who will attend the University of Denver's School of International Studies, serving in Rep. JOSE E. SERRANO's office; Chansonett Hall, a graduate of Penn State University, who will attend the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public and International Affairs serving in Rep. GREGORY W. MEEKS' office; Yehia Hanan, a graduate of Howard University, who will attend Georgetown University's School of Public Policy, serving in Sen. JOSEPH R. BIDEN's office; Marcus Jackson, a graduate of Florida A&M University who is serving in Rep. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA's office; Paloma Gonzalez, a graduate of Lewis and Clark College, who will attend Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, serving in Rep. BARBARA LEE's office; and Brandon Jackson, a graduate of Cornell University, who will also attend Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, serving in my office.

I have been eagerly awaiting your arrival. I have read each and every single one of your bios and I am extremely impressed with all of your diverse areas of study and accomplishments. I know your experience on the Hill will be an invaluable help to you in the Foreign Service.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends for the invaluable experiences that they are providing and for personally hosting a Rangel Fellow in their offices. The experiences to be obtained during their time in the House of Representatives will provide insight that is a special and unique part of this program. This Capitol Hill exposure and experience will be particularly useful as they enter the State Department as junior Foreign Service Officers. Thank you for the wonderful opportunities that you are providing this summer.

I am extremely proud of this program and its contribution to the country. I believe that in America, diversity is our strength. With our Nation's growing international involvement, there could be no better time than now to attract the very best, the brightest, and the most diverse talent available to represent the American people and champion our interests in every corner of the globe.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER RAY DEAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Dean, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

I join with your family and friends in expressing best wishes on your significant

achievement. I commend you on attaining such a high honor and your superior contributions to your community. Showing particular dedication to the children at Children's Mercy Hospital, Christopher developed an activity for the patients. Being recognized for your remarkable achievement reflects both your hard work and dedication. I am sure you will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Ray Dean for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Christopher in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House voted and unanimously passed H. Res. 622, to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II. While I applaud the House's long due recognition to the bravery and commitment of these Filipino veterans in the service of the United States military, I must stress that our responsibility in Congress is still not complete. A great injustice was perpetrated on the Filipino veterans, and Congress must correct it.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt ordered the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines to serve under the United States military command. Thousands of Filipino soldiers gave their lives in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, and more than 120,000 Filipinos fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur during World War II. These soldiers won for the United States the precious time needed to disrupt the enemy's plan for conquest of the Pacific. At the time of recruitment, the United States government promised that all members of the armed forces who fought for our Nation would be treated as U.S. veterans for the purposes of their benefits.

Congress unfortunately withdrew this promise through the Rescission Act of 1946, which stated that the service of these Filipino soldiers "shall not be deemed to be or have been service in the military or naval forces of the United States". While some Filipino veterans now receive full veterans' benefits, many others are still waiting for the Congress to do the right thing, and restore the benefits that were promised to them nearly six decades ago.

Although H. Res. 622 recognizes the brave men and women who sacrificed to keep our country safe, the resolution does not fully restore justice to these brave patriots. H.R. 4574, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, would amend the Rescission Act of 1946, restoring their honor and their veteran status as was promised.

Mr. Speaker, these WWII heroes are in the twilight of their lives, and time is running out for Congress to fully recognize their service. Do not let H. Res. 622 be a simple substitute for the also bipartisan H.R. 4574 that will restore the honor and dignity these Filipino veterans rightfully deserve.

IN HONOR OF FRANK H. BASS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a dear friend, Frank H. Bass from The Woodlands, TX who passed away after suffering a stroke on September 15, 2006. Mr. Bass was a true servant to society and left a lasting impression on all he encountered.

Frank was proud to call The Woodlands his home since 1985 where he served in numerous positions throughout public, private, and corporate sectors. Before this he graduated from Mercer University where he received his undergraduate and Doctorate degrees and served valiantly in the United States Navy.

After a lengthy career with Florida Power Corporation in St. Petersburg Florida, he came to Texas to serve as the Director of Legal Services for the Texas Municipal Power Agency. Following this, he served Montgomery County first as an Assistant County Attorney and then as the elected County Attorney for two 4-year terms.

In 2001, Mr. Bass was appointed Associate Judge to hear cases relative to Children's Protective Services in several Texas counties. Judge Bass was truly a natural on the bench and was renowned for his kindness, fairness, compassion, even handedness, and his intolerance for those who mistreated children.

Continuing in his serving nature, Judge Bass also served on the boards of The Woodlands Community Association and the Montgomery County Women's Center. Notably, he was also a founding member of the Town Center Improvement District.

Judge Bass was an active leader in many areas of the community and his leadership, service, and the example he set will be missed by all. He is survived by his wife of 29 years Diane, and their four grown children Mark, Jeff, Marcia, and Michele.

Mr. Speaker, Frank was a rare individual whom I will miss greatly. Thank you for helping me honor Judge Bass, one of the most kind-hearted individuals I know.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PHILLIP P. WHITE, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Chief Petty Officer Phillip P. White's retirement on September 1, 2006, from the U.S. Navy. Chief White proudly held the line among the brave sailors of the U.S. Navy for more than two decades.

On a daily basis he diligently worked for the betterment of the Florida Gulf Coast region. While an active duty sailor he participated in naval operations that assisted in locating and identifying numerous historic shipwrecks in the Pensacola Bay area. In the wake of the tragic hurricanes of last year, Chief White valiantly returned to active duty status to lend his brawn to the recovery effort.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deep appreciation to Phillip Paul White for his service to Florida and our country. My best wishes on a happy retirement, and continued success, Chief.

CELEBRATING THE RIGHT EXCELLENT DR. MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to pay tribute to Jamaica's favorite son and national hero, The Right Excellent Dr. Marcus Mosiah Garvey. Dr. Marcus Mosiah Garvey had "One God, One Aim, One Destiny" for his life. That venerable aim was the "Redemption of Africa." He was born in St. Ann's Bay, Saint Ann, Jamaica on August 17, 1887. Marcus Garvey was a publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, crusader for Black Nationalism, and founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League.

Garvey advanced proposals that were designed to promote social, political and economic freedom for Blacks, including launching the Black Star Line Corporation and its successor company, the Black Cross Navigation and Trading Company. He was at the forefront of developing Liberia based upon the belief that Blacks should have a permanent homeland in Africa. Marcus Garvey asserted, "Our success educationally, industrially and politically is based upon the protection of a nation founded by ourselves. And the nation can be nowhere else but in Africa." Garvey was a deep believer in race improvement through self-empowerment which undercut the "Doctrine of Inferiority" that plagued the minds of Blacks throughout the Diaspora. The Garvey Movement was an emerging force that spoke to the pride of being Black and the richness of Black ancestry. Garvey sought respect for Africa and dignity for those dispersed from its shores.

Garvey furthered the paradigm of redemption and uplift of his race by establishing the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League in 1914 in Jamaica. Through the UNIA-ACL Garvey championed the cause of Africa and proclaimed that until Africa is free and redeemed, not only in name but dignity, no one would be free, Black or White. Garvey was a firm believer in the "Brotherhood of Man", that is to say, all of our destinies are inextricably linked together by the "Parenthood of God." Moreover, the Creator has a purpose for everyone that he has created and that purpose does not include slavery or subjugation for any circumstances.

Garvey held that dignity and self-esteem were the most powerful and only weapons against racism and white supremacy. Garvey stated, "the man or woman who has no confidence in self is an unfortunate being, and is really a misfit in creation. God Almighty created earth and every one of us for a place in the world, and for the least of us to think that we were created only to be what we are and not what we can make ourselves is to impute an improper motive to the Creator for creating

us." Garvey wanted every Black throughout the Diaspora to commit to self-awareness, confidence, conviction and action. Only then would Africa become free and the bonds of condemnation fall and shatter.

Marcus Garvey was a scholar, a leader and a statesman who gave his life to mother Africa and Black people. History records that Garvey attracted an unprecedented following, enjoyed by no previous Negro leader. Garvey sought to eradicate the evils that plagued Black existence. He believed that "Chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people," but it will take measurable deliberate action toward the destiny that God has prepared.

In the 1920's, Marcus Garvey built the largest Black-led mass movement this country has ever seen. There was never a leader like him, before or since. In nearly all matters relating to the resurgence of African people, in this country and abroad, there is recognition of this man and his movement that seemed impossible in his lifetime. His prophesy has been fulfilled in the independence explosion that brought more than 30 African nations into being. The concept of Black Power that he advanced, using other terms, is now a reality in large areas of the world now governed by people of African origin. From the year of his arrival in the United States, in 1916, until his deportation in 1927, the community of Harlem, my home, was his window on the world. I am so proud that, from the work in my community he launched a great movement and became one of the most significant leaders of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica's first national hero, the Right Excellent Marcus Garvey is honored in many ways throughout the world. If you visit New York City's Harlem neighborhood, you will find a park named after his Excellency. If you travel across the shores and visit Nairobi, Kenya, you can walk down a major street named after Marcus Garvey. If you should visit Lenton, Nottingham, you can drop in to the Marcus Garvey Centre. In Kingston the building housing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs bears his name, and in St. Ann there is a secondary school named after him. Marcus Garvey is celebrated and memorialized all across the world and now it is my pleasure to honor him now in the "People's House."

Mr. Speaker, on August 17th, people from all over the world will celebrate Marcus Garvey's birthday. We will celebrate him as a leader, a friend of Africa and a lover of Black people throughout the world. Even now, I can hear the reverberation of his words, "Up you mighty race, accomplish what you will."

CONGRATULATING AUDREY RUST FOR HER WORK AT THE PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Audrey Rust for her tireless efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the San Francisco Peninsula. For nearly twenty years, Audrey Rust has been the CEO of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, an organization that has been highly effective in protecting well over 55,000 acres of land in San Mateo and

Santa Clara Counties, California. I congratulate her for this great achievement, and I am proud that she resides in my congressional district.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) owes much of its great success to Ms. Rust's ability to create partnerships between public agencies and private landowners to bring significant tracts of land under permanent protection. Highlights of POST's work include securing the preservation of the 7,357-acre Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch, the 1,623-acre Bair Island in Redwood City, and the 2,438-acre Rancho Cañada del Oro in San Jose. Also, POST played a significant role in the creation of Cowell Ranch State Beach. When it opened in 1995, it was the first state beach created in California since the early 1980s.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most impressive preservation efforts by Ms. Rust and POST was saving the Rancho Corral de Tierra from planned development. The 4,262-acre region contains awe-inspiring views, rich farmlands, important watersheds, miles of public trails, and diverse wildlife. Under Ms. Rust's leadership, POST was able to secure millions from private donors to purchase this beautiful land. Senator FEINSTEIN and I were inspired by the pristine grandeur of Rancho Corral de Tierra and introduced to include the ranch within the boundaries of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We were successful in that effort with the passage of Public Law 109-131 in this Congress.

Prior to her years of leadership at POST, Ms. Rust worked with the Sierra Club, and Yale and Stanford Universities. She has served on the boards of numerous local, state and national organizations, primarily in the fields of conservation and housing. Over the years, Ms. Rust has received several major awards, including the Times Mirror-Chevron National Conservationist of the Year Award, the League of California Voters Environmental Leadership Award, the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal, the Garden Club of America's top environmental honor, and the Jacqueline Kennedy Award from JFK University for her achievements in land conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Audrey Rust for her integral role in preserving the natural landscape of one of our nation's most beautiful regions. I am inspired by Ms. Rust's dedication to maintaining the pristine beauty of the San Francisco Peninsula.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered House Resolution 994, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Most of us were here in Washington on that fateful day, and after the attacks we knew our lives had

changed forever. Although I may not agree with every provision of this resolution, I voted for it to support our troops and to commemorate that tragic day.

House Resolution 994 is an effort to honor those thousands of innocent people who lost their lives that day as well as remember the bravery and sacrifice of the fire fighters, law enforcement officers and rescue personnel who worked feverishly to save them.

This resolution also recognizes the brave men and women of our armed services who responded with authority, precision and when needed, force, to root out the cowardly perpetrators and protect Americans and our interests both here and abroad.

Although we pause on September 11th to reflect and say thanks, on this day we must also renew our commitment to securing the homeland and protecting our values every day.

It is our responsibility to remove bureaucratic roadblocks and provide our Nation's first responders with the interoperable communications equipment they so sorely need.

We must seek the correct balance between securing our Nation and protecting the civil rights that serve as the basis of our enduring democracy.

And we must honor our commitment with continued support of our troops overseas.

It seems like only yesterday when this Nation joined together in recognition that the forces that divide us from one another can never overcome the transcendent unity we have as Americans.

Five years ago Members of Congress stood shoulder to shoulder on the step of this Capitol and pledged to work together to remember this day and honor the sacrifice of the fallen.

This is a pledge we should remember every day and not just once a year.

SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ELIMI-
NATING SUFFERING AND DEATH
DUE TO CANCER BY THE YEAR
2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 210, to support the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by 2015.

Cancer is one of the most dreaded diagnoses a person can get. Every one of us has been affected by cancer, whether personally or through the experience of a family member or loved one.

In fact, cancer affects one out of every two men and one out of every three women in this country. According to the American Cancer Society, 1.3 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed this year, with 1,500 Americans dying from cancer every single day.

While the statistics are still staggering, the promise of a cure is closer than we had ever imagined. Thanks to the commitment of the Federal Government and our research institutions, cancer rates declined by nearly 10 percent in the 1990s, and new treatments are being developed every day.

Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, the former Director of the National Cancer Institute, set a

goal for the country to eliminate suffering and death due to cancer by 2015. In my hometown of Houston, we were proud to have Dr. von Eschenbach serve at MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the top cancer centers in the country in terms of both research and patient care. With all of his experience as a leader in the field of cancer research, if Dr. von Eschenbach thinks we can achieve this goal, I am confident that our hope for a cure is within reach.

I thank my colleague, Mr. SHAW, for introducing this important resolution and encourage my colleagues to join me in support of it.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL CUMMINGS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Cummings a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 312, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Cummings for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF ARMENIA'S INDEPEND-
ENCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence. Armenia's independence was first recognized on September 21, 1991, marking it as one of the first nations to declare its independence from the former Soviet Union. Building upon the foundations of the first Armenian Republic of 1918, today's Armenian Government has, in the years since independence, strengthened democracy and the rule of law, promoted free-market reforms, and sought a just and lasting peace in the region.

Since declaring independence from the former Soviet Union, Armenia emerged from its Soviet-styled centrally planned economy, based on industry and highly dependent on outside resources, to an economy developing and relying on new sectors, such as precious stone processing and jewelry making, information and communication technology, and even tourism.

With its steady economic progress, Armenia has rightfully earned increasing support from

international institutions. As the 2005 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index chart, where Armenia ranked 88th out of 158th, shows, Armenia has earned this support. Furthermore, according to the 2005 U.N. Human Development Report, Armenia has a Human Development Index of 83 out of 177, and ranks the highest among the Transcaucasian republics. Finally, in recognizing the country's continuing efforts to move away from its Soviet past, it cannot be overlooked that in this year's Index of Economic Freedom, Armenia ranked 27th best, tied with Japan and ahead of countries like Norway, Spain, Portugal and Italy. The rank puts Armenia in the category of "Mostly Free" countries, making it the most economically free state in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

No recognition of Armenia would be complete without acknowledging the fantastic contributions of the Armenian diaspora living here in America. It is estimated that the Armenian community in the United States numbers in the hundreds of thousands and represents the largest Armenian community in the world outside Armenia. In Michigan, my hometown of Detroit was itself one of the great historical centers where Armenians set down roots after they came to our great Nation. Armenian-Americans have also made contributions to every aspect of American life. Among the most notable have been William Saroyan, Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author; Howard Kazanjian, producer of *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; Raffi, children's singer and songwriter; System of a Down, multi-platinum alternative/metal group; Steve Zallian, Academy Award winning screenwriter of *Schindler's List*; Ray Damadian, inventor of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and, of course, Andre Agassi, professional tennis player.

However, our relationship with Armenia has certainly been by no means a one-way street. Our Nation's Armenian diaspora has provided the greatest number of high ranking officials in the new republic: the young Minister of Foreign Affairs, Raffi Hovannissian, a lawyer and political scientist, whose father, Richard, professor of Armenian history at UCLA, is the foremost authority on the first republic; the minister of energy, Sebu Tashjian, also from Los Angeles; Jirair Libaridian, historian and former director of the Zoryan Institute, who is a personal advisor to President Levon Ter Petrosian; and Mathew Der Manueelian, a Boston lawyer with a high post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I'll conclude my statement by wishing Armenia and Armenian-Americans a happy independence day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
MANRESA JESUIT RETREAT
HOUSE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House as it celebrates its eightieth year of service to Oakland County.

Founded by a group of laymen in 1926, the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House has grown and

evolved over the years to become a center for thousands of people to get away to a quiet place for meetings, seminars, workshops, and worship.

In its beginnings, the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House struggled to secure the funds to fully provide food service and other amenities to its guests. However, through perseverance and strong leadership, Manresa has become a fixture in the community, providing thousands of people with a place to worship, reflect, learn, and work in a nurturing atmosphere. Its board of directors has guided the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House's ministry to the community, including the establishment of the Internship in Ignatian Spirituality which trains both laymen and ordained people of many denominations for ministry in their communities.

September 23, 2006 will mark the eightieth anniversary of the first retreat ever held at the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, located on the thirty-nine acre "Deepdale Estate" on the corner of Woodward and Quarton Road in Bloomfield Hills. At the time of its establishment as the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, this area was part of the expanding metro Detroit area. As the area grew, so did Manresa with a series of additions and renovations that have enlarged the original capacity of retreat guests from 23 to its current capacity of 78.

The Manresa Jesuit Retreat House has provided a foundation upon which thousands of metro Detroiters have grown, both personally and spiritually. I am proud to recognize its importance in forging the character of the community as we celebrate the eightieth anniversary of Manresa's inaugural retreat.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN MALCOLM
"MIKE" ALLEN

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Austin Malcolm "Mike" Allen, former Mayor of Northville, Michigan, and mourn his passing at the age of 91.

For more than nine decades, Mike served the people of the City of Northville, where we served as its Mayor from 1958–1978. Born on October 3, 1914, he left his world on September 9, 2006. In his magnificent life, Mike embodied the virtues of honesty and duty—and good old fashioned common sense—for which he was widely admired and never equaled. (Though, admittedly, few tried to emulate his love of suspenders!)

Mike is survived by his wife, Betty; his children, Jim, Sharon, and Patricia; and his siblings, Doris, Naomi, Jerome, Flora, and Hoy. He will be remembered for his witty sense of humor, unfaltering dependability, and endearing concern for others. Mike touched everyone he met; and, by his absence, we are all diminished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Austin Malcolm "Mike" Allen for his lifetime of dedication and service to his fellow human beings.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE
MELANCON WELCOMES TO THE
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, Today I welcome President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United States.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, there was great concern about the political and economic future of the former Soviet republics. The world wondered whether these nations would join democratically developed nations, and whether they would be able to overcome the communist ideology that had been imposed on them for so long. Furthermore, as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Empire, nuclear weapons were scattered, uncontrolled and therefore even more dangerous. The colossal number of nuclear weapons was a real threat to peace and the possibility loomed of bloody territorial and international conflict.

Unfortunately, in some cases our concerns were valid. For many of these emerging states, the burden of building a stable, flourishing and democratic society appeared to be a difficult task. Not everyone could handle this historic mission. The world witnessed several conflicts, sometimes bloody, in the former Soviet bloc, which not only destabilized the region, but also caused economic stagnation.

All indicators showed that Kazakhstan, with its enormous territory, vast natural resources and multinational and multiethnic population, should have been the epicenter of instability. But instead, Kazakhstan was one of only a few former Soviet states that avoided bloodshed. Kazakhstan withstood the pressure of reform and today has made staggering economic and political progress, largely due to President Nazarbayev's vision and leadership.

President Nazarbayev's stewardship of Kazakhstan's vast natural and strategic resources has given the world confidence in his government. His commitment to harmonize Kazakhstan's political and business climate with Western standards has allowed Kazakhstan to assume a leadership role among the former Soviet states of Central Asia. And Kazakhstan has risen up as a model in disarmament and nonproliferation and should be applauded by all nations of the world.

In November of last year I visited Kazakhstan. The warm and hospitable Kazakh people reminded me of the people from my own home state of Louisiana. During that trip, I was proud to be one of the first leaders to congratulate President Nazarbayev on his reelection. I also met with the elected leaders of the legislative and executive branches of government and of several opposition parties. I am glad to report that democracy in Kazakhstan is growing.

If you have never seen Kazakhstan's capitol city, Astana, you must. The brand new city rises up out of the Steppes, with cranes and skyscrapers studding the horizon. Astana is a truly awesome testament to the will of the Kazakh people to move into the future. It is a symbol of the progress Kazakhstan has made from Soviet dominance to independence.

I would also like to commend President Bush's Administration for seeing what I have seen for some time. Kazakhstan wants to be a partner with the United States. They are an ally in the Global War on Terror and Kazakh troops have shed their blood alongside Americans in Iraq. As we work to secure our nation from terrorism, we should thank the Kazakhs for their sacrifice. Kazakhstan's military and economic security is linked to America's. I hope to see our nations walk together down a path of prosperity and stability.

It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to Kazakhstan's continued success in the years ahead and wholeheartedly support the future strengthening of the U.S.-Kazakhstan strategic partnership. I am confident that with President Nazarbayev's leadership we will bring our two nations closer together.

Welcome to the United States, Mr. President.

DARFUR ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006.

As a Member of Congress who traveled to Darfur and visited the refugees in camps along the Chadian border, I am confident that now is the time for a two-pronged approach of diplomacy and divestment to end the genocide in Darfur.

As many of you know, divestment was a successful tool in ending the apartheid in South Africa. Similarly, we must make sure that the federal government prohibits contracts to multinational businesses enterprises if they maintain business relationships and investments with Sudan and other national, regional, and local governments involved in genocide or participating in business activities with any warring parties or rebel groups perpetrating genocide.

Today, state legislatures, colleges, and universities are leading divestment campaigns to pressure the Khartoum regime and show the international community that to achieve an end to the fighting, peace, truth, and reconciliation are needed immediately in Darfur.

The hard earned money of American citizens should not be used to support a pariah government that is killing its own people and supporting terrorists.

State legislatures in Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Maine have passed legislation mandating divestment of State funds from companies that conduct business in Sudan. California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Iowa, and Texas have considered or are considering legislation to divest State funds from companies that conduct business in Sudan. Connecticut, Ohio, and Vermont have passed nonbinding divestment legislation with respect to Sudan; and Arizona, Louisiana, Missouri, and Pennsylvania have adopted screening processes for investments in companies that conduct business in countries that are sponsors of terrorism, including Sudan.

Additionally, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) has launched successful student campaigns across the country, driving their respective colleges and universities to divest from companies doing business with Sudan.

Amherst, Boston University, Brandeis, Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, Middlebury, Oberlin, Princeton, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Samford, Simmons, Smith, Stanford, Trinity, the University of California, the University of Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California, the University of Vermont, the University of Washington, Williams, and Yale have all divested their funds from, or placed restrictions on investment of their funds in, certain companies that conduct business in Sudan.

The Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act applauds the divestment efforts of the state and local government, colleges, and universities.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would also require the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Division of Corporate Finance and the U.S. Treasury to require all companies listing securities on United States capital markets, either directly or through a parent or subsidiary company, including partly-owned subsidiaries, have business operations in a country with a genocide declared by the Department of State or Congress, to disclose the nature of their business operations.

The Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006 would require:

(1) The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Division of Corporate Finance and the U.S. Treasury to require all companies listing securities on United States capital markets, either directly or through a parent or subsidiary company, including partly-owned subsidiaries, have business operations in a country with a genocide declared by the Department of State or Congress, to disclose the nature of their business operations.

(2) The United States Government (federal) to prohibit contracts with multinational business enterprises if:

(a) They maintain business relationships and investments with national, regional and local governments involved in genocide; and

(b) They participate in business activities with the government or government entities.

(c) Exemptions for businesses who are working in areas of Sudan that have been neglected by the Khartoum regime (Darfur, Southern Sudan, Kordofan/Nuba Mountain State, Blue Nile State or Abyei) or who are providing immediate humanitarian assistance (delivery of food aid, road construction, basic sanitation, education, etc.).

(3) Recognition and support of:

(a) States and Cities that have divested or are in the process of divesting State and City funds from companies that conduct business in Sudan; and

(b) United States colleges and universities that have divested their funds from, or placed restrictions on investments of their funds in, companies that conduct business in Sudan.

(c) Provides preemption protection for states and universities who have sponsored their own divestment campaigns.

(4) Within 180 days, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the existence and extent of all Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board investments with na-

tional, regional and local governments involved in genocide; or business activities with any warring parties perpetrating genocide; or related to debt-obligations issued by the government of Sudan;

(5) The following reports not later than 60 days after enactment:

(a) The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission shall report to Congress the names of the business enterprises and the details of their business operations in Sudan;

(b) And biannually thereafter, the Office of Global Security Risk shall report to Congress the names of the business enterprises and the details of their operations in Sudan;

(6) The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to maintain and publish a list of the names of the business enterprises identified by the Securities and Exchange Commission as having ties with perpetrators of genocide.

Please join me in sending a message to the international community and out national pension funds that we do not want blood on our hands.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to lend your support to the Darfur Accountability and Divestment (DADA) Act of 2006.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW KENNEDY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a man who has touched the lives of so many in my community of Nashville, as well as around the world, through his music and his commitment to sharing his talent with others.

Matthew Kennedy was born in the segregated South in 1921, the son of a strict, school teacher mother and postal worker father. Only months after his birth, his father dies of a heart attack leaving his mother on her own to care for the family. Despite the challenges, Matthew's mother is determined that her young son and will be able to take "serious" piano lessons with the town's white music teacher. The teacher agrees to lessons and in exchange Matthew and his cousin agree to clean her studio.

Even at this very young age, Matthew's talent is evident. The famous Russian pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff comes to his hometown of Macon, Georgia and Matthew and his mother somehow get tickets to hear the master from the segregated balcony. Matthew says his life was changed by that experience forever. Soon, Matthew is heading to New York, having won a scholarship to continue his music studies at the Julliard School.

While in New York he performs at Carnegie Hall and the Apollo Theatre. But before long he is on his way to Nashville. His Julliard teacher encourages him to return to the South to use his talents to help his people. Matthew arrives at Fisk University where he is welcomed by the director of the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. He agrees to take on the role of piano accompanist for the Jubilee Singers and begins what will be a lifelong commitment to the school, the Jubilee Singers and his belief in the power of music.

Matthew Kennedy served as the director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers from 1957 to 1985.

During that time, he traveled and performed with them in the world's most famous concert halls in Europe, South America, the Middle East and the Caribbean. He influenced the lives of hundreds of young students during those years, and inspired thousands who witnessed his performances and his musical direction.

On this coming Monday evening, September 25, Matthew Kennedy will be honored at a special event at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. That evening Nashville will salute Dr. Kennedy at the premiere of a new documentary film that is a tribute and testimony to his accomplishments and talent. The film is directed by his daughter Nina, also a recognized pianist and filmmaker. It will be a special night for Dr. Kennedy and his family. But it will also be a special night for all Nashvillians and music lovers everywhere as we pause to celebrate the life of a truly gifted and generous artist and community leader.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the men, women, and children who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America and to honor the heroic efforts of our first responders on that fateful day.

It is more than fitting that the resolution before us today remember the innocent victims of September 11 and pay tribute to the countless first responders who at their own peril responded to the horror of that day.

It is unfortunate then that the Republican leadership has chosen this solemn time to play politics and divide this House by inserting into this legislation references to several controversial and partisan pieces of legislation.

It is true that Democrats and Republican disagree over the policies of the administration and the Republican leadership. These policy differences include the Republican budget cuts in time of war, the failure to ensure the safety of our seaports, the failure to fully inspect aviation cargo against terrorist attacks, and the failure to provide our first responders with critical resources and equipment to adequately respond to a disaster.

It is also true that Democrats have a new direction to address these and other security concerns and the failures of this administration to adequately prepare our country for another large scale disaster. But the Republican leadership dishonors the spirit of this solemn anniversary by including divisive language in this resolution.

Controversial issues, such as certain provisions of the PATRIOT Act and the Border Protection Act, have no place in a resolution that commemorates the events of September 11, 2001. And I deeply regret that my Republican colleagues have unnecessarily cast a shadow on this solemn anniversary.

On the fifth anniversary of the September attacks, let us remember 9/11 not with political shenanigans but by respectfully remembering those who lost their lives and by honoring them with legislation that provides real homeland security for the families and friends they left behind and all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA ACT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about an important piece of legislation I am introducing, the Sons and Daughters of America Act.

Families who have suffered the loss of a loved one are not able to grieve in peace with dignity and respect because of people who want more than freedom of speech. They want taxpayers' compensation for their legal fees when they challenge local, State and Federal laws. "We're going to get rich off the stuff they're doing. This is finger-lickin' good," one protestor said.

It is appalling that people would profit at the cost of the honorable men and women who have served our country with courage and valor. We should all be offended by their actions and take away any opportunity for financial compensation. Families should be allowed to grieve in peace.

Many States have been forced to pass legislation to ban the picketing and protesting of funerals, including military funerals, because of protestors who refuse families the right to mourn in peace. A protestor from my home State of Kansas sued city and state officials and was awarded a total of \$217,000 in attorney's fees.

That is why I am introducing the Sons and Daughters of America Act, which will provide legal protection against frivolous lawsuits directed at statutes prohibiting picketing at military and other funerals. We already have Son of Sam laws to ensure that murderers cannot profit off of their crimes. Unfortunately, it's come to the point where we need to ensure that those who violate the sanctity of mourning cannot profit from their callousness.

I am proud to introduce today the Sons and Daughters of America Act and ask my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF MARGARET
THATCHER CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill with Congressman JIM MATHESON awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Margaret Thatcher.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the Nation's highest and most distinguished civilian award. First presented to General George Washington in 1776, the Congressional Gold Medal is awarded to individuals who perform

outstanding acts of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States. Margaret Thatcher's distinguished service to the West included helping to win the cold war and reviving the economies of Europe. During her tenure as prime minister, America had no better ally.

Margaret Thatcher was the first female head of state of a Western nation, and the longest serving British prime minister in the 20th century. Soviet leaders called her the "Iron Lady." And so she was in the West's final chapter against the Soviet empire. The end of the cold war was due in no small part to her close partnership with the United States with the shared goal of defeating Eastern European communism.

Margaret Thatcher was a woman of principle and a strong leader. She resurrected a stagnant British political landscape and forever strengthened the Anglo-American relationship. For her unwavering friendship to the United States, I can think of no greater honor than bestowing on her the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal.

I want to thank my good friend Congressman JIM MATHESON for being the lead cosponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important initiative.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL PERIPHERAL
ARTERIAL DISEASE
AWARENESS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 982 which offers this Chamber's support for National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness week.

This year, National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week occurs September 18 through September 22 and gives us a time to reflect on the need for the increased education and awareness needed to promote early detection and the proper treatment of this disease.

Peripheral arterial disease, which is a narrowing of the arteries that results in reduced blood flow to the limbs, affects between 8 million and 12 million Americans. Americans suffering from peripheral arterial disease find themselves at increased risk for heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation. Unfortunately, most cases of peripheral arterial disease are asymptomatic, causing too many Americans not to know that they have the condition.

That is why this resolution and this Chamber's support for National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week are so important. If we can shed light on this devastating disease, more Americans will become educated about their risk factors and get the early detection and treatment to avoid the painful heart attacks, strokes and amputations that too often befall our loved ones.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES M. WINFREY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles M. Winfrey a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 82, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles M. Winfrey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 217TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 217th anniversary of the United States Marshals Service, our Nation's oldest Federal law enforcement agency. The men and women who proudly wear "America's Star" have been involved in some of the most historic events in our Nation's history, and I am proud to commend them on this significant occasion.

The first 13 United States Marshals were appointed by President George Washington in 1789 with their primary mission being to support the Federal courts. As times changed, so did the mission of the U.S. Marshals Service. However, they have answered the call to duty without exception.

In the early years, U.S. marshals and deputy U.S. marshals executed warrants, distributed presidential proclamations, protected the president, registered enemy aliens in times of war, pursued counterfeiters, and helped conduct the national census. The Marshals Service maintained law and order in the "Wild West," kept the trains rolling during the Pullman strike, and enforced the 18th amendment during Prohibition.

On November 14, 1960, four deputy U.S. marshals accompanied 6-year old Ruby Bridges to elementary school after a Federal judge ordered the desegregation of the New Orleans public school system. In 1962, when James Meredith sought to legally become the first black person to attend the University of Mississippi, the duty of upholding the Federal law allowing him to do so fell upon the shoulders of 127 deputy marshals from all over the country. They acted with the highest degree of professionalism and honor during this turbulent season in civil rights history.

Their accomplishments in recent decades are too numerous to cite, but extraordinary in

their commitment to law and order. The U.S. Marshals provided security to 18 airports in the hours and days following the attacks on 9/11, played an instrumental role in the "D.C. sniper" investigation, were deployed to the gulf coast after Hurricane Katrina, and provided security for the trials of Oklahoma bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh and Al-Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui.

Over the past 217 years, the Marshals Service has grown and evolved into a modern law enforcement agency, still charged with protecting the Federal judiciary, but also apprehending dangerous fugitives, conducting protective operations, ensuring the security of witnesses and their dependents, providing for the custody and transportation of Federal prisoners, managing the Federal Government's seized asset program, and conducting special operations as required by the Attorney General. No other law enforcement agency has as many diverse missions as the U.S. Marshals Service. Among their most innovative efforts is their newly created Fugitive Safe Surrender Initiative, a unique fugitive apprehension program that has already netted the peaceful surrender of hundreds of fugitives across this country in a community coordinated and faith-based environment.

Every day, deputy U.S. marshals carry out complex and life-threatening missions with integrity, skill, and valor. I commend Director John Clark and the 5,000 men and women of the Marshals Service, who are justifiably proud of their agency and their history. I am proud of them as well, and appreciate their contribution to this Nation as they celebrate their 217th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ARMENIA

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

On September 21, 1991, one of the world's oldest and most historically significant civilizations was able to re-establish their place among the autonomous nations of the world by declaring its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The founding of the Republic of Armenia was an historic event that exemplifies the strength and perseverance of a people in pursuit of freedom and self-determination through democracy.

Armenia's road to independence was not easy. Enduring centuries of foreign domination, the genocide against its people in the early 20th century, and suffering through seven decades of totalitarian dictatorship did not discourage the Armenian people. In the face of oppression, the Armenian people never wavered in their pursuit to secure freedom and a democratic nation of their own.

Since its independence, Armenia has emerged as a viable, vibrant society and has played an important role in stabilizing the South Caucasus region. Armenia continues to be a trusted partner of the United States in a strategically important area of the world, a re-

gional leader in political and economic reform, and a nation committed to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, today, on the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence, I rise to celebrate the determination of a people who refused to relent in their quest for freedom.

HONORING LYLE VAN HOUTEN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Lyle Van Houten, former mayor of Dearborn Heights, MI, and to mourn him upon his passing at age 77.

For over seven decades, Lyle dedicated his life to public service and bettering the lives of others. As an integral member of the community, Lyle was first elected to the Dearborn Heights City Council in 1967, where he served until he was elected Mayor in 1986. Upon completion of his mayorship in 1993, he continued to strengthen the Michigan Republican Party, serving as Republican Committee chairman of the 16th and 15th congressional districts.

Moreover, during his distinguished career, he was appointed to the Michigan Judges Retirement Board of Directors by past Governor John Engler, and also served as a member of the Dearborn Heights Kiwanis Club and the Divine Child Men's Club, among other community organizations. Throughout his years, Lyle established a legacy of benevolence, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the community.

On September 7, 2006, after a 4-year battle with cancer, Lyle passed away. He will be remembered as a confident and patriotic American, who served his country with honor and dedication. To his wife, Mary; his children Julie Panetta and her husband Mark, L. Carter, Jr. and his wife Pamela, John, and Margaret; his grandchildren Ellen, Susan, and Nicolas; his sister Jean Linderman; and to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a noble statesman who will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Lyle Van Houten enriched the lives of everyone around him. As we bid farewell to this extraordinary individual, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his legendary service to our community and country.

TRIBUTE TO COMMODORE JOHN BARRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, the Fairfield County Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrated the official recognition of Commodore John Barry as the First Flag Officer of the United States Navy. In 2005, the House passed, and the President signed into law, H.J. Res. 38, which made this recognition official, and I was proud to support this legislation. I am happy to submit the text of Master Chief Richard Iannucci's informative address

at this ceremony to be entered into the RECORD.

Selectmen, honored guests, veterans, citizens of Fairfield, stalwarts of Gaelic descent, and shipmates

This is a replica of the First Navy Jack. This flag, more properly this "jack," was flown by Commodore John Barry and at the bow of ships of the Continental Navy.

This same jack was ordered flown on the jackstaff of every US Navy warship on 9/12/2001. This jack had not be flown by an American warship at war in over two hundred years.

At sea a flag or jack always signifies something. This jack, the jack of Commodore Barry and the Continental Navy, signifies that the US Navy is today functioning at its grimmest, most deadly earnest level of national survival.

Barry and the men who fought alongside him, were heroes in the traditional sense of the word. They were not victims as the word "hero" seems to be evolving today, but men of courage who voluntarily thrust themselves "in harm's way" to use a phrase made famous by another Continental Navy captain, John Paul Jones.

This flag symbolizes John Barry and the Continental Navy's proud and courageous legacy.

BARRY: THE FIRST CRUCIBLE

John Barry, the father of the United States Navy, was fired in three crucibles. His legacy is a function of those three crucibles and the trials they represented.

The first crucible was the unsettled nature of the country of his origin, Ireland. John Barry was born in 1745, in a cottage in County Wexford, Ireland, the southeasternmost part of Ireland. Wexford had a strong maritime tradition, but Barry's father was a poor tenant farmer who was eventually evicted from his farm by his British landlord. The family was forced to relocate to the village of Rosslare. It would have been at an early age that Barry learned of the bloody fall of Wexford to an invading British force led by Oliver Cromwell in 1649.

Barry had to be aware of his countrymen's general fear of British oppression and governmental administration. Today there are people who parrot that thought that "there is nothing worse than war." John Barry knew there was at least one thing worse than war . . . losing a war and he only needed to look around himself in Ireland to draw that conclusion. Today you hear the cant, "War never accomplishes anything." John Barry would have known that to be a wrongheaded conclusion.

Personally, as a descendant of highlanders and seafarers forced to leave the Isle of Raasey of the Inner Hebrides, on the western coast of Scotland, during the Highland Clearances, I am aware of the strong formative influence of having to leave your home under the cloud of a sense of injustice.

The plight of his native land had to have left its mark on John Barry.

BARRY: THE SECOND CRUCIBLE

The second crucible was the demanding, unforgiving nature of the sea. John Barry's uncle was the captain of a fishing skiff, and at an early age he chose to follow his uncle as a seafarer. The sea meant freedom and independence. It was easier to jump ship, if life became unfair or oppressive, than move from one farming tenancy to another. Barry started as a cabin boy, and worked his way up. Going to sea was no easy career choice, but it gave a young man independence, and opportunities tied to merit, for the sea holds little regard for nationality or economic status. Only performance counts. A sea captain sailed one of the technological marvels of

the day. A captain had to know sophisticated mathematics, astronomy, meteorology, navigation, carpentry, metal working, oceanography, chemistry, physics, civil engineering, business law, and psychology, among other disciplines. A merchant ship was the second most complex convergence of technology of the 18th Century. He had to learn all this, control and lead dozens of men at a time, fight the elements, and turn a profit. He was an established ship's captain by the age of 30, plying the trade route between Philadelphia and the West Indies.

What was the most complex convergence of technology of the 18th Century? A naval warship was the first most complex convergence of technology, because it carried the added element of naval guns and other weaponry.

BARRY: THE THIRD CRUCIBLE

In 1775, John Barry was dropped into his last and third crucible, when he offered his services to the Continental Congress. His ship *Black Prince* was purchased by the Continental Congress and renamed *Alfred*. His lieutenant was a fiery Scotsman, named Jones, John Paul Jones.

John Barry was then given command of *Lexington*, 14 guns, in December of 1775. *Lexington* sailed in March of 1776. That April, off the Capes of Virginia, John Barry engaged *Edward*, tender to the British man-of-war *Liverpool*. After a heated battle he captured *Edward*, the first American naval prize of the war and brought her into Philadelphia. He captured several private armed British ships not long after.

His next command was *Effingham*, which was only partially completed and used her to patrol the Delaware Bay and Capes. A British agent offered Barry 20,000 pounds sterling to change sides and bring *Effingham* with him. In the 18th Century, 20,000 pounds was a fortune. Barry would not turn his coat.

In October of 1776, the Continental Congress assigned the rankings of officers of the Continental Navy, ranking John Barry No. 7 among Continental Navy captains.

Barry was a thorough warrior. Barry's contribution to the war was not limited to sea duty. He could have stuck with *Effingham* and his naval specialization, but in December of 1776, Barry recruited a company of volunteers for landing party duty. He and his company took part in the Trenton campaign. He organized the boatmen and assisted George Washington in his famous crossing of the Delaware. Barry subsequently assisted in the defense of Philadelphia and operations in the upper Delaware.

When the British took possession of Philadelphia in September 1777, Captain Barry was ordered to take his uncompleted frigate *Effingham* up the Delaware River to a place of safety. In October, the ship was ordered sunk or burned. Barry scuttled her in November, near Bordentown, New Jersey, to deny her use to the British.

In March of 1778, Captain Barry captured the British schooner *Alert* of 20 guns, and two ships loaded with supplies for the British Army using a fleet of small boats.

Taking command of *Raleigh*, 32 guns, he sailed from Boston in September 1778, and two days later was chased and attacked by three of Royal Navy vessels. After a nine hour running battle, he ran *Raleigh* ashore on an island near the mouth of Penobscot Bay in what is now known as Maine, but was foiled by a turncoat crewman and unable to completely destroy *Raleigh*. He escaped to the mainland with most of his crew. He then assumed command of the privateer *Delaware*, 10 guns.

In November of 1780, Barry was ordered to command *Alliance*, 32 guns, and took John Laurens, Special Commissioner, to France. *Alliance* would be his most famous command.

To and from France, he captured the British Privateers *Alert*, 12 guns; *Mars*, 26 guns; and *Minerva*, 10 guns.

In May of 1781, Barry engaged the British sloops-of-war, *Atlanta*, 20 guns, and *Trepassy*, 14 guns. This was to be Barry's most famous engagement. Barry conducted a relentless defense from the quarterdeck until a projectile of langridge (broken nails and metal fragments) or canister (small spherical projectiles) struck him in the left shoulder. He remained on deck bleeding from many wounds until losing consciousness. He was carried below to the cockpit for medical care by the ship's surgeon.

As the battle increased in intensity, *Alliance*'s colors were shot away. Barry's second in command, appeared before him as his wounds were being dressed.

I asked you to bear with me. 18th Century dialogue sound wooden and strangely formal to the 21st Century.

Barry's second in command stated, "I have to report the ship in frightful condition, Sir. The rigging is much cut, damage everywhere great, many men killed and wounded, and we labor under great disadvantage for want of wind. Have I permission to strike our colors?"

Barry replied angrily.

"No Sir, the thunder! If this ship cannot be fought without me, I will be brought on deck; to your duty, Sir." A new flag was raised using the mizzenbrail for a halyard, and the fight continued. Just as they reached the deck, a gust of wind filled *Alliance*'s sails. Replying to her helm, the battered *Alliance* swung about and the officers and crew pressed their new advantage to victory.

He continued in command of *Alliance*, taking numerous prizes in 1782.

In 1783, John Barry fought the last Continental Navy engagement of the Revolutionary War against the British man-of-war *Sybylle*, 28 guns. Though the ship surrendered to him he was obliged to abandon it to escape from the rest of the squadron of which *Sybylle* was a part. At the time, Barry was convoying *Duc de Lauzane*, carrying money and supplies from the West Indies to the Colonies. His defense enabled *Duc de Lauzane* to escape and reach the Colonies.

After the close of Revolutionary War, Captain Barry returned to the merchant marine.

Upon reorganization of the Navy, in June of 1794, Captain Barry was appointed No. 1 on the list of Captains and his commission was signed by George Washington. As senior captain, this status entitled him to the positional title of "commodore" in any group of US Navy ships. The US Navy would have no admirals until the Civil War. The title "admiral" was thought to be to aristocratic and undemocratic. The army could have generals, but the navy would have only commodores.

Barry was ordered to superintend the building of the frigate *United States*, 44 guns, and to command her when finished. He fought in the Quasi-War with France, 1798-1801, capturing a number of French vessels in the West Indies. By the direction of the Navy Department he brought *United States* to Washington, where she was laid up. This ended Barry's active service.

He was employed in testing cannon for the Government 1801-1802, and was selected to command the Mediterranean Squadron, but was too ill to take the duty. He died at his country residence near Philadelphia.

Commodore Barry was indeed the Father of the United States Navy, he was there at the beginning and he stayed the course through two wars. He set the example and what an example it was. He was courageous, tenacious, and versatile.

FULL CIRCLE

Let's take one last look at this First Navy Jack. We have come full circle.

On July 7, 1779, as you left Southport Harbor and looked over your port beam (or larboard beam as Commodore Barry would have known it), you would see the smoke from the British punitive raid on Fairfield. On September 11, 2001, as you left Southport Harbor and looked over your starboard beam, you would see the smoke from the burning towers of the World Trade Center. Here we are in the Southport section of Fairfield, a crossroads of history and yet even here in Fairfield we failed to give due deference to history. The Fairfield School system willfully fails to observe Veterans Day, for example, as a holiday.

We are at war, but have we learned from history? It is all too easy to put the present war aside and go about our business. Let someone else address the problem. Perhaps another John Barry will turn up, or perhaps it doesn't matter.

We need more John Barrys, men of bravery and determination, we can never have enough.

Barry knew there were things worse than war and his life was determined by that knowledge. He knew there were things far worse than war. Do we? He acknowledged that there were objectives that war could accomplish, do we?

HONORING JOEL B. ROSEN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Joel B. Rosen, United States Magistrate Judge of the New Jersey District, for his exceptional service to his community. I consider Joel a close friend, and commend him for his continuing commitment to the practice of law.

After graduating from Rutgers School of Law at Camden, with honors, Judge Rosen served as an Assistant United States Attorney. For a time, he was the attorney-in-charge of the United States Attorney's Office in Camden where he received several commendations from the Department of Justice for prosecuting organized crime and political corruption. He also served as the Chief of the Special Prosecutions Section as a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. In 1987, Judge Rosen was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Judge Rosen was awarded the Rutgers School of Law Honorable Joseph M. Nardi Jr. Distinguished Service award in 2004. In 1999, he received the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. "Champions for Social Justice and Equality Award" from the Black Law Students Association at Rutgers School of Law. He was the recipient of the Special Achievement Award from the Department of Justice in 1976 and received Special Commendation of Outstanding Service in the District of New Jersey, Department of Justice in 1975. Judge Rosen is a Former Member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction and the Federal Judicial Center, Magistrate Judge Education Committee. He was also the Former President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

I have known Joel both personally and professionally for over a decade and have found him to be a man of outstanding moral char-

acter. His compassion and integrity are only matched by his keen mind and superior knowledge of the law. I am proud to call Joel a friend.

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say, that as world leaders meet in New York this week to determine next steps on the Darfur crisis, we here in the U.S. Congress must commit to finding ways to break the current deadlock and lead new international action to stop the ongoing genocide.

We need to begin an all-out diplomatic offensive on Darfur in order to prepare the way for a peacekeeping force that can ensure protection for the people of Darfur.

The Coalition for International Justice estimated that 450,000 people in Darfur have died since the deadly genocide began some three years ago.

International attention to the Darfur conflict largely began with reports by the advocacy organizations, Amnesty International, in July 2003, and the International Crisis Group in December 2003.

Since then, countless organizations have put in untold hours trying to stop the carnage and human suffering. Groups like: International Committee of the Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, World Vision, SAVE DARFUR—an alliance of more than 100 faith-based, humanitarian, and human rights organizations, including: Amnesty International USA, International Crisis Group, American Jewish World Service, NAACP, American Society for Muslim Advancement, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Church World Service.

In all, dozens upon dozens of groups and organizations have prioritized stopping the killing in Darfur before there is no one left to be killed. It is high time that we, the U.S. Congress, join our name to that list.

We've done it before.

When the U.S. Congress decided in 1986 that South Africa's ways of Apartheid could no longer be ignored, the 99th Congress jumped in and passed of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act was won over a presidential veto. The bill imposed sweeping economic sanctions against South Africa, divesting capital from the government, and authorized several measures to assist the victims of apartheid.

Virtually every member of Congress felt pressure from their home districts to do something about apartheid and cities and colleges in their districts were divesting, and the bipartisan vote led the way ending an oppressive regime.

We are at the point with Darfur.

I continue to hope and pray that the Bush Administration makes this a top priority in New York this week, and to pressure Sudan and its allies, particularly Russia and China, to accept the will of the international community for an international force to protect civilians in Darfur.

In the meantime, I hope that we all gather in support of Congresswoman LEE's Darfur

Accountability and Divestment Act, DADA, of 2006. Divestment worked to end Apartheid and it can work in this instance.

We can make a difference. We can save lives. We can stop the genocide.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR ELIAS BISSET

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, a Cuban hero who is a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Biscet is a leading pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba and one of the leaders of the democratic Cuba of tomorrow. Dr. Biscet is a medical doctor and the founder of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights. He has dedicated his life to freedom and democracy and is a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Biscet is a man who has constantly opposed the tyranny in Cuba, and who has paid a tremendous price for his belief in freedom.

In 1998, he was sentenced to 3 years in the gulag because he flew the Cuban flag upside down to protest the subhuman treatment of the Cuban people at the hands of the Castro tyranny. When he was "released" in October of 2002, he was out of prison only a few weeks when he was rounded up again and sentenced this time for "association with enemies of the State," and he was sentenced, along with over 75 other peaceful pro-democracy leaders and independent journalists, to 25 years in the Cuban gulag.

For the vast majority of the last 8 years, Dr. Biscet has lived in a gulag that can only be described as a living hell. Dr. Biscet has been placed in what is called "the tomb." He is underground in solitary confinement, in a punishment cell. And so that he fully understood the dimension of his punishment, a serial killer was placed along with him in "the tomb."

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet recently spoke by telephone with Mr. Amado Gil, a journalist in Miami, FL. The Coalition of Cuban-American Women transcribed, edited and translated this interview from Spanish to English.

PRISON CONDITIONS

The government of Cuba has tortured me during eight years; they have done so trying to drive me insane, though, thank God, I have been able to preserve my sanity . . . in reality, they continue torturing me because I live in a box with no windows or natural light, no water . . . with a mattress that feels as if one were sleeping on a plank, a stone . . . unfit for a human being . . . surrounded by criminals and under the threat, as it has happened on previous occasions, of being attacked by the government who instigates these dangerous prisoners . . .

I believe that what the government is doing is torturing me to humiliate me so that I abandon the struggle on behalf of the freedom of my country but, thank God, I have been able to keep up my stance and will continue doing so with God's help . . .

SYMBOLIC FAST AS OF JULY 13, 2006

I began this fast (in prison) because I believe we should pray to God and demand our rights before the government, the right to be free which belongs to every person just for

being a citizen. Our country has lived so long without any rights, under a dictatorship . . . I believe that we must demand rights that belong to us and, in everyone's interest, these liberties must be observed . . . In order to live a full life, it is essential to live in freedom and the Cuban people are denied these rights . . . that is why I'm initiating a fast along with other brothers (in prison) to demand that the government sign the international covenants of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights—the Cuban regime must sign them and abide by them so that the Cuban people may live in freedom at last. . . .

MESSAGE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE

The Cuban people must do their utmost in their struggle to win their freedom and succeed in obtaining the international support of all free and democratic countries. I trust that the Cuban people will prove their dignity as they have done so on other occasions, so that we may enjoy FREEDOM. . . .

My colleagues, despite the hell that has been described, Dr. Biscet is unrelenting in his resolve for freedom for the people of Cuba. Dr. Biscet is a great patriot, a man of peace, and an apostle of freedom for Cuba. Dr. Biscet is a hero in the tradition of the great figures of Cuba's long struggle for liberty. Quintin Banderas, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Ignacio Agramonte, Antonio Maceo, and thousands of other Cuban heroes established a tradition of heroism that today is being continued by countless men and women who have given their best years and often their lives for the freedom of Cuba. Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet is a hero in that same admirable tradition.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Dr. Biscet languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We cannot permit the brutal treatment by a demented and murderous tyrant of a man of peace like Dr. Biscet for simply supporting freedom for his people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Elias Biscet and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia. Today, we congratulate and pay tribute to the citizens of Armenia, as well as people of Armenian descent in the United States and around the globe on this important anniversary of their independence from the former Soviet Union.

Since its independence in 1991, the Republic of Armenia has been a trusted and valuable friend of the United States in the strategically important South Caucasus region. During that time, the United States and Armenia have developed a strong relationship based on shared democratic values.

Throughout their history, the Armenian people have persevered over unspeakable tragedy and hardship. Despite oppression, occu-

pation and the genocide committed against the Armenian people, the unique Armenian culture, heritage and values have flourished.

However, Armenia still faces significant obstacles. It is surrounded by hostile neighbors who have erected blockades to prevent the flow of key resources into Armenia, hindering its ability to develop economically. Despite these difficulties, Armenia's economy has continued to grow at an impressive pace. The United States must continue to provide economic and military assistance and do everything in its power to end these blockades so that Armenia's economy can continue to grow and its young democracy can thrive.

I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives today in commemorating Armenia's independence. I look forward to the bonds of friendship between the United States and Armenia becoming even stronger in the coming years and I wish all Armenian people well on this day.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARS INCORPORATED PLANT IN WACO, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Mars Incorporated manufacturing facility in Waco, Texas—an important institution in our community since its opening on September 23, 1976.

For decades, this facility has produced the Snickers® Bar and other Snickers® varieties for American consumers, and it is now the only facility in the country that produces Skittles® Bite Size Candy and Starburst® Fruit Chews. Roughly 700 people are employed at the Waco facility, many of whom have worked at this facility their entire careers. The loyalty of its associates is a testament to Mars' commitment to providing associates with an environment in which it is a pleasure to work.

I have been proud to have a Mars facility in my district all these years. Approximately \$30 million worth of Texas-grown peanuts are used in the Waco facility to produce Mars' popular snackfood products. In addition to the hundreds of jobs that this facility brings to our economy, Mars has also embraced its role in our community through numerous charitable contributions and community sponsorships.

Mars has also been a pioneer in its industry for the installation of water-saving treatment facilities at some of its plants, and it has incorporated a Wetlands Wastewater Treatment Facility in its Waco facility which saves 3 to 5 million gallons of water each year. In Texas, where we've experienced severe drought in recent years, water conservation is increasingly important. I commend Mars for being a leader on this and other sustainability issues, and I encourage similar facilities in Texas to use the Mars model as an example of environmentally conscious production.

Again, I congratulate Mars for reaching this 30-year milestone and hope that this facility will continue to be a member of our community for many more decades to come.

ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WISE COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Wise County, a Texas county that is part of the 12th Congressional District which I have the honor to represent in Congress.

The area that today is known as Wise County, located northwest of the Fort Worth/Dallas area, initially was home to Native American Indians. The Coronado Expeditions in 1540 found the Wichita Indians roaming the region. By the mid-1800s, Texas was being settled to the north and west of the Gulf Coast. The first settlers, lead by Sam Woody and his family, came to the Wise County region in 1854 attracted by an abundance of land, game and other natural resources. The Woody family and other pioneers who came from other southern states found their new home ideal for farming and ranching.

On January 23, 1856, the Texas Legislature officially created a new county from the larger Cook County and named it for Henry A. Wise, a U.S. Senator from Virginia who had supported the annexation of Texas into the United States a decade earlier. By a popular vote, the community of Taylorville, named for President Taylor, was selected to the county seat where the first of four county courthouses was constructed. Later, the town's name was changed to Decatur in honor of U.S. Naval hero Stephen Decatur at the urging of Col. Absolam Bishop, recognized as the founder of Decatur. The present courthouse on the Decatur town square is the fourth, a majestic pink granite structure constructed in 1895 and remodeled several times since.

By 1860, Wise County had more than 3,000 residents. Although Wise County was one of the Texas counties that voted against secession from the United States, it did recruit five Confederate military companies from among its male residents who fought in the Civil War. Following the Civil War, agriculture continued to be the prime focus of the Wise County economy. Over time, dairy farming, brick and limestone production and oil and gas production became important segments of the county's economic base. At the turn of the century, 99 percent of Wise County's 27,116 residents still lived in unincorporated areas.

Wise County has the distinction of being the birthplace of the first established junior college when Decatur Baptist Junior College was created in 1892 to serve as a "feeder school" to Baylor University in Waco. In 1965, the junior college took a step forward by moving to Dallas and becoming Dallas Baptist University.

Throughout its history, the many men and women of Wise County have served proudly in the U.S. military with distinction and honor. In recognition of some of its sons and daughters who fought during World War II and who were members of the famed "Lost Battalion," Allied soldiers who became Japan prisoners of war, the Wise County Heritage Museum has dedicated a room to members of the Lost Battalion.

Since World War II, Wise County has continued to flourish. Today, the county has a

population of 60,400. While agribusinesses continues to be an important part of its economy, a growing number of residents are employed in a wide array of industries spread across the North Texas landscape. Wise County has developed a reputation as having a small town lifestyle with urban amenities nearby. Seventeen incorporated towns and cities are part of Wise County. They include: Alvord, Aurora, Boyd, Bridgeport, Briar, Chico, Decatur, Greenwood, Lake Bridgeport, New-ark, New Fairview, Paradise, Pecan Acres, Rhome, Runaway Bay and Slidell.

To celebrate its heritage, Wise County commemorates its founding from September 30 through October 7, 2006, with the Wise County Sesquicentennial celebration. The Wise County Sesquicentennial celebration honors the past and recognizes the future with events in every corner of the county.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Wise County on the 150th anniversary of its establishment and to offer sincere appreciation for the many contributions Wise County and its great citizens have made to Texas and the United States over the last 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR
TOMMY ED ROBERTS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alabama State Senator Tommy Ed Roberts. Senator Roberts has represented Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties in the Alabama State Senate since 1994 and served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1974 through 1982. Senator Roberts recently announced his retirement from public service and in April concluded his final legislative session.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Senator Roberts on a wide variety of issues facing Morgan County. He has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

During his many years of service in the State Legislature, Senator Roberts' peers elected him to numerous legislative leadership positions. He served as the Chairman of the Senate Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

Senator Roberts' well known legislative accomplishments include his work to create Alabama's identity theft protection laws and his bill to allow Morgan County to give a portion of its sales tax to help fund volunteer fire departments.

In addition to serving Morgan County as a State Legislator, Senator Roberts was a champion of economic development and expansion. He served as Executive Director of the Morgan County Industrial Development Association and the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority for many years and is credited with helping to create over 14,000 jobs. He played a large role in successfully recruiting the Boeing Delta IV Rocket Plant and Nucor Steel plants to Decatur, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Roberts is well respected throughout our local community and the entire State of Alabama. On Saturday, September 23rd, the North Alabama commu-

nity will gather to honor and celebrate all of Senator Roberts' achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Senator Roberts for his many years of dedicated service.

HONORING THE BRAVE WARRIORS
WHO HAVE ENLISTED IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST NARCO-TERRORISM

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave warriors who have enlisted in the fight against narco-terrorism. Some, like Edna McAber of Baltimore, have narrowly escaped death. Others, like Carnell and Angela Dawson and their five beautiful children, were not so lucky.

The front page of the Tuesday, September 19, 2006 edition of the Baltimore Sun tells the story of Ms. McAber, a tireless community activist who made it her personal mission to fight back drug trafficking in her neighborhood of Harwood.

For her efforts, her car was keyed, her tires were slashed, bricks were thrown through her windows, and finally—18 months ago—her house was firebombed.

Ms. McAber survived the attack, but only to be exiled from the neighborhood she loved enough to try to save.

Sadly, stories like hers are not unprecedented in Baltimore. This October marks the 4-year anniversary of one of the most terrible tragedies I have witnessed in my lifetime.

Mrs. Dawson, like Ms. McAber, was a warrior for her community. She fought to get drug dealers off her street, and away from her five young children. She paid for her efforts with her life.

Drug dealers one night filled the Dawson family home with gasoline, and set it up in flames. All five children and their mother died in the attack. Mr. Dawson, who sustained burns over 85 percent of his body, died a week later.

When I sat at the Dawson family funeral 4 years ago, looking at those five small caskets and one big casket, I thought to myself: How did we get here?

I have lived my whole life in inner city Baltimore. I have seen the innocent little girls who used to play hopscotch on my block grow up to sell their bodies for drugs. I have seen brilliant little boys with endless potential head off to jail instead of college.

The disease of drugs plagues every facet of our community, robbing children of their childhood, and denying decent people the opportunity to thrive.

It is a pervasive disease that reaches far beyond our inner cities, tormenting the lives of people in communities across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am as committed to the global war on terrorism as any member of this body, and I commend our brave warriors who risk their lives every day so that we might be safer.

But don't be fooled: Terrorism lives here at home as well.

Warriors like Mrs. Dawson and Ms. McAber have fought for our freedom with their livelihoods and their lives.

Just as we honor our soldiers in Iraq by providing them with the most sophisticated defense technology on the market, we must honor our domestic warriors by providing law enforcement officials with the best tools available to protect them.

That is why I introduced the "Dawson Family Community Protection Act" (H.R. 812) and the "Witness Security and Protection Act" (H.R. 908).

The "Dawson Family Community Protection Act," which would provide protections to neighborhood activists, passed the House in March as part of the "Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act" (H.R. 2829).

I want to thank my colleagues in the House for their support of this vital initiative and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to follow suit by passing the ONDCP reauthorization.

The "Witness Security and Protection Act" would provide much-needed federal funds to state-run witness protection programs.

I implore my colleagues, in honor of Ms. McAber, the Dawson family, and the countless others who have suffered and continue to suffer from the violent fallout of the drug trade and the ravages of drug abuse, to support the "Witness Security and Protection Act," H.R. 908.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT L.D.
BELL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District's L.D. Bell High School as it celebrates its 50th anniversary of providing quality education for its students. L.D. Bell has been a fixture in the H-E-B community since 1957. Lawrence Dale Bell High School was opened on a site donated to the school district by the late Larry Bell, Founder and President of Bell Helicopter Textron in Hurst.

Rapid student growth and academic excellence have been the cornerstone of Bell High School. During its 50-year history, L.D. Bell has earned state and national recognition in academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership training and service disciplines. These numerous honors resulted in the recognition of L.D. Bell as a National Blue Ribbon School during the 1994–1996 school terms.

L.D. Bell's high school motto affirms that they "Do not imitate but are a role model for others." The accomplishments that L.D. Bell High School has achieved in its first 50 years certainly exemplify this. With half a century of success behind them, I am confident that L.D. Bell will continue to educate and inspire the young adults that walk its halls today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and honor the 50th anniversary of L.D. Bell High School for their dedication and continuing commitment to education in my congressional district.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDUARDO
ANDRES LUCIO, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eduardo Andres Lucio, Sr., the father of the Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., who recently passed away on September 4, 2006 at 89 years of age.

Eduardo Andres Lucio, Sr., was born on November 10, 1916, in the City of Brownsville in the State of Texas to his parents, Teodoro Lucio and Maria Antonia Lopez Lucio. He then was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church at the historic Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville on June 11, 1916. He was one of 11 children: eight brothers and three sisters.

Mr. Lucio also has a long familial lineage that stretches all the way back to King Ferdinand the Catholic of Spain, and several of his ancestors were conquistadores who fought with Hernan Cortez in the early 1500s in Mexico. Some of the descendants of his ancestors include the founders of Matamoros, Monterrey, Mier, Saltillo, and Camargo, Mexico.

In 1937, during the Great Depression, he worked at the Chapman Ranch in Kingsville, Texas, and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in Bonita Canyon in the small town of Douglas in Arizona. He later met and fell in love with his wife, Josefa Liendo, who would become his future wife of 65 years and mother to his 10 children. He then joined the United States Army Air Corps on December 30, 1941, in San Antonio, Texas, to fight on behalf of the United States of America in World War II. He was a part of the 46th Service Squadron which served in North Africa and in Italy.

Mr. Lucio was honorably discharged from the Army of the United States on July 3, 1945, for a near-fatal injury which he had suffered in battle. He has various decorations and citations which include the EAME Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, four Bronze Service Stars, and four Overseas Bars. In 1996, during a ceremony held in the City of McAllen in the State of Texas, other World War II medals and ribbons were given to him by Vice President Al Gore.

He worked hard for his family by achieving his goals of a higher education, first with the diploma from Brownsville High School on May 30, 1949, and then an Associate in Business Degree from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, on May 29, 1950. He then worked at the Cameron County Courthouse in the Sheriff's Office for almost 30 years, and in his last 3 years, he served as Head Office Deputy Sheriff with great pride. Mr. Lucio retired from his civil service in 1979, and enjoyed his retirement as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans of America. He also took great strength from his faith as a Roman Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mr. Lucio is survived by his 19 grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren. His eldest son, Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., has served as a public official for over 33 years. He has left behind a remarkable legacy in his children, who have de-

grees in education, administration, supervision, business, engineering, classical music, law, medicine, theater arts, school counseling, chemistry, biology, pharmaceutical sciences, and technology. He truly led by example and inspired his children to be the best they could be in achieving their dreams and goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Eduardo Lucio, Sr.

WORDS OF CONDOLENCE CONCERNING A DEDICATED EDUCATOR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise to recognize a teacher and friend, Sona Polakowski. She succumbed to cancer on September 15. I join her husband Bob, her daughter Jen, her son Mark, her family, friends and admirers in mourning her loss and in celebrating her life.

Born in Jersey City, NJ, Sona resided in Lawrenceville, NJ for the past 35 years. A graduate of Seton Hall University, she was project director for math and science at the Lawrence Township Board of Education. Sona was a member of the New Jersey Education Association, National Science Teachers Association and Congregation Brothers of Israel.

For the past 15 years, it has been my privilege to work with Sona to improve children's education. Her cheerful determination was her most apparent characteristic. She gave hundreds of teachers the confidence and knowledge to teach science; and, most of all, she shared her determination. Her effect on others will remain with thousands of students for generations to come. She will be missed by me, my staff, and the many teachers and others with whom she worked.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS ANTHONY DAVILA-LAWRENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the passing of Mr. Francis Anthony Davila-Lawrence, a loving father, veteran, public servant, union leader and community activist who passed away in Brooklyn, New York, on August 5, 2006. I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD his obituary which captures his many contributions and achievements to the great State of New York. We will never forget him. Thank you.

FRANCIS ANTHONY DAVILA-LAWRENCE,
JANUARY 9, 1921–AUGUST 5, 2006

Francis Anthony Davila-Lawrence, known by some friends as Frank and by other friends as Francisco, left this life on August 5, 2006 at 85 years of age. Francis was born in Harlem Hospital on January 9, 1921 to a Panamanian-Caribbean mother and a Cuban father.

Francis was a New Yorker. He spent the majority of his life working and building businesses in and about New York City. Francis married twice, raising three chil-

dren, whom he loved dearly. With his first wife, Eunice Williams, they raised a son, Michael, and a daughter, Aleta. Later in life, he married Louise Simon, and raised a second son, Jason.

With Frank's passing goes a library of stories and experiences. He grew up during the Great Depression. He attended the very first World's Fair, seeing a microwave decades before they would ever come to use in an American household. He traveled throughout the Bronx, Harlem, and Jamaica, Queens during his youth in a Ford Model T, which he said had terrible brakes. He served in the Navy during World War II, and then went on to serve with the Merchant Marines as a civilian worker, and in the Coast Guard during the 1950s.

He was a hard worker. Frank worked as a cook at several of the large hotels and restaurants in Manhattan before going to work at the New York City Board of Education, where he worked 30 years, retiring as a Senior IBM TAB Operator. He had been one of the few Black or Latino workers to be trained to work on the then-massive IBM computers, which took up whole floors to do what we do today with a laptop. While at the Board of Education, he was an active unionist, serving in several union leadership positions. He was an active participant in the fight for dignity and fair wages for working people.

Francis dreamed of bigger and better things for his family and worked to provide opportunities for his children. He worked to exhaustion to make sure his family had what they needed. Later, as a haustion real estate investor, he amassed properties across New York City and elsewhere. Frank worked so much that his family often joked that he worked eight days per week. In addition to his full-time job, he maintained a number of supplemental jobs, including working as a cook at Brooklyn's famous Junior's Restaurant, working weekends for the Free Sons of Israel, and as a security guard for the ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union).

After his retirement at age 65, he purchased a small newsstand in Manhattan's Wall Street district "just to keep himself busy." Frank's personality and laughter lit up rooms. He had a gleam in his eye, and hardly held his tongue. He was an excellent dancer. Throughout his life, he was an avid reader, taking his glasses off and squinting one eye to get a clear look at the words on the pages of the New York Post or the Amsterdam News. He thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic stories of the National Enquirer.

He had a gentle place in his heart that was untouched by life's hardships. He loved dogs and cats. He also loved children, putting a ship's silver dollar for luck into many babies' hands. He was an optimist about his health, the future, and his ability to do things at any point in his life.

As a youth, he adventured widely, seeing many parts of the world. When asked about his life's long list of adventures, he said that more than anything he accomplished during this lifetime, he found joy in seeing his children brought into the world. He instilled a sense of family, honor, and justice in his children, maintaining these things mattered most in life.

He loved his children passionately. Family was the most important thing in his life and he was more than anything else, a proud father of three wonderful children whose successes filled him with pride throughout his life.

Frank leaves to mourn his loss wife Louise, ex-wife Eunice, children Michael, Aleta and Jason, daughter-in-law Norma, sisters Gloria, Angela, and Marie, and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

MARK BRICKMAN—A MAN IN THE KNOW

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the transparency that makes our legal system the best in the world requires that the public have access to its proceedings, and a chance to view the record. Although often overlooked, the court reporter is an integral component of this system as he or she sits quietly in the courtroom diligently producing a transcript of the trial. In addition to their work in the courtroom, freelance court reporters are hired to work at depositions and to transcribe conversations between parties. I recently read about the extraordinary work of one court reporter named Mark Brickman, a constituent of mine from San Mateo, CA, and wanted to share his story with my colleagues.

Mark was born in San Francisco, but moved to Millbrae, CA as a teenager. A talented musician, he graduated from Mills High School and went on to San Francisco State University intent on pursuing his interest in music. At his parent's request he agreed to consider a more "typical" career and like many college students he explored multiple options before finding his calling as a court reporter.

Mr. Speaker, after passing the California State Court Reporters exam, Mark worked for a couple of different firms before his entrepreneurial spirit lead him to start his own firm Brickman Deposition Reporting in 1986. Like so many successful enterprises this company was started out of his house, before growing and now operating out of San Francisco. Mark's success has taken him across the country and around the globe. However, even more impressive is the fact that Mark is still able to make sure he is always around for his wife Cynthia, herself a court reporter, and their children. Although able to type over 100 words a minute, Mark is taking the time to write a book with advice for step-fathers.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mark Brickman, a professional court reporter and a terrific guy and to read more about him in the following article from the San Mateo Daily Journal.

A MAN IN THE KNOW

(By Heather Murtagh)

Mark Brickman isn't an ordinary reporter, but the man is in the know.

He can type fast. He knows a lot about many topics and he can keep a secret.

Brickman, 49, is one of thousands of court reporters paving their own way tailoring a job that fits their lifestyle. It wasn't the path Brickman believed he would end up on—music was his passion.

Brickman moved from San Francisco with his family to Millbrae when he was 13. He graduated from Mills High School in the early 1970s. Before leaving the school, Brickman made his mark in the music department. By playing the clarinet and saxophone, Brickman was able to partake in all things music around the campus. The musical love even brought him over to Europe for a class trip.

He began San Francisco State University wholeheartedly committed to studying music. At his parent's request he looked into studying a more lucrative area—like business. It was the first of many changes before

a neighbor introduced him to court reporting.

"It was right up my alley. I was always into words and I love politics and being social," he said.

Once he found the right career the motivation just hit Brickman. Since private school allowed him to focus on the court reporting rather than general education, Brickman was able to finish in two years—graduating in 1978. While in school Brickman worked as a typist for a court reporting firm. It took him two tries to pass the court reporting exam, but once he did his hard work paid off as he was offered a job.

There are two types of court reporters—actual court reporters and freelance reporters. Court reporters sit in the courtroom transcribing what is being said. Freelance reporters complete depositions, transcribe conversations and complete any paperwork outside of the courtroom. Brickman is primarily a freelance reporter but he dabbles in courtrooms from time to time—only for topics that interest him.

He produces hundreds of pages in a day, and it's not because of his typing skills. Brickman can type over 100 words per minute but court reporters use a different method of typing. The language is a special kind of shorthand, which sometimes consists of typing two letters simultaneously. To type the, for example, Brickman just presses "t," and the word if is the letters t and p pressed at the same time. It's a difficult language to master, said Brickman, but the work is worthwhile.

Brickman worked for a couple of firms before opening Brickman Deposition Reporting in 1986, the firm is currently in San Francisco but started in his bedroom in Foster City. It's the kind of job, which can be as consuming or low maintenance as a worker could want. Reporters are paid between \$4 to \$10 per page. Brickman's work has taken him to multiple states and as far as Tokyo. He's listened in on the personal information of Debbi Fields, the woman behind Mrs. Fields, and self-help guru Deepak Chopra.

Brickman loves being in the know of personal and political situations going on around the nation. The career, he said, is great for anyone needing flexibility in a work schedule. It's also something that requires lots of work, accuracy and studying to get right. Brickman had one professor who would read names and numbers out of the phone book for hours as they transcribed it—a task he hated at the time.

"I could kiss his forehead. Twenty-six years later and I still use those skills," he said.

Despite his busy schedule, Brickman still makes time to have a life. He lives in San Mateo with his wife of four years, Cynthia, and her 18-year-old daughter Erika. Cynthia has four children, two girls and two boys. Brickman adopted Beverlee, the older daughter, just a few months before he married Cynthia.

Brickman met Beverlee at a convention for court reporters, which they both are, when Brickman first started dating his wife. He instantly felt protective of her. When the idea to adopt her was brought up, Brickman never looked back.

Even with success in business Brickman said it's important to have a balance with family and an outside life. He spends much time with his wife and children. He'd love to help with a national election one day. When he has the chance he loves to write. In fact, he's currently working on a book detailing his experiences with mixing families and tips for stepfathers.

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ARMENIA ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Armenia on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their independence from the Soviet Union.

Since September 21, 1991, Armenia has faced the daunting challenge of building a modern free market economy on the crumbling foundations of Communism. In spite of the situation as they inherited it, Armenia's story has been one of increasing success against long odds. As a member of the World Trade Organization, and a country committed to privatizing their economy, Armenia has seen positive economic growth rates since 1995. While there remains much work to be done, I am confident that the people of Armenia, with their long history of triumph over adversity, will succeed again in making their country a beacon of hope in its troubled part of the world.

Throughout their history, the Armenian people have proven both their desire and determination to be free. I am proud to join my colleagues in acknowledging the anniversary of independence for the free government of the Armenian people who have been ruled by the Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Persian, Ottoman empires as well as the Soviet Union.

On this important occasion, I extend my congratulations to the people and government of Armenia.

ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY REMARKS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th anniversary of the independence of Armenia. On this day in 1991, Armenia was finally given the opportunity for self-rule for the first time in centuries. After suffering under harsh rule of the Turks, who attempted to slaughter them, and then the Soviets, who imprisoned them and persecuted them for their Christian beliefs, Armenia is now heading for a bright future filled with liberty and economic growth.

After decades of stagnation under the failed communist economic system, Armenia now ranks as the 27th most economically free nation in the world. A member of the World Trade Organization, Armenia is working through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to grow its economy. I have strong faith that Armenia will continue to grow despite the harsh embargoes of its neighbors in Georgia and Turkey.

Armenia is justifiably proud of its deep cultural roots that go back to the dawn of recorded civilization. Ninety-nine percent of Armenians are literate and they have preserved both a distinct language and alphabet. Located in the shadow of the famed Mt. Ararat,

Armenia's growing tourist industry prides itself on the nation's fascinating history.

Armenian-Americans are contributing to the development of their homeland by investing and promoting the nation on the international stage. Today is a great day for them and their homeland. I congratulate Armenia on 15 years of freedom and progress and trust that our nations will grow even closer in the future as we seek to promote liberty around the world.

ANOTHER NASA SUCCESS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed another space shuttle mission with this morning's landing of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and the completion of the STS-115 mission. Launched on September 9, STS-115 is the 116th space shuttle mission, and the first since 2002 to include work on assembling and expanding the International Space Station. The successful completion of the STS-115 mission puts the space station back on the road to completion.

The major accomplishments of the STS-115 mission include the delivery and installation of the massive P3/P4 truss—an integral part of the space station's backbone—and two sets of solar arrays that will eventually provide one quarter of the space station's power. The crew's other accomplishments include preparing an important radiator for later activation, installing a signal processor and transponder that transmit voice and data to the ground, and performing other tasks to upgrade and protect the space station's systems.

The STS-115 mission is the first time a procedure called "camp out" was implemented. A "camp out" is where astronauts sleep in the Quest airlock prior to their space walks. The process shortens the "prebreathe" time during which nitrogen is purged from the astronauts' systems and air pressure is lowered so the space walkers avoid the condition known as the bends. The "camp out" procedure enabled the astronauts to perform more than the number of scheduled activities on each of the mission's three space walks.

The *Atlantis*'s crew performed unprecedented robotics work on this mission. The crew used the shuttle's arm in a delicate maneuver to hand off the school bus-sized truss to the space station's arm, and also moved the space station's robotic arm to a position where it will assist in the next phase of station construction. Perhaps most significantly, the *Atlantis* crew performed the first full fly around of the space station since before the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident. Thanks to the fly around, ground crews now have a better perspective on the space station's environment and overall exterior health.

Coming less than 2 months after the successful mission of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, the *Atlantis* mission is another demonstration of the skills and dedication of all NASA personnel. I therefore urge all my colleagues join me in extending congratulations to NASA for the successful completion of the *Atlantis* mission. And extend a special thank you to *Atlantis*'s crew of Commander Brent

Jett, Mission Specialist Joe Tanner, Mission Specialist Steve MacLean, Pilot Chris Ferguson, Mission Specialist Dan Burbank, and Mission Specialist Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper, and the ground team that worked with the shuttle crew to make this mission a success.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BETTY BUCK

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations today to my good friend and Fifth District constituent, Betty Buck of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, who was recently elected as the Chairman of the National Beer Wholesalers Association. Betty is well known for her leadership in the State of Maryland, and this week she made history by being elected the first woman to lead this important national business trade association.

Betty is the President of Buck Distributing, a beer wholesaler in my District, where she oversees a business with annual sales of more than \$40 million and employs more than 100 workers. This is not the first time that Betty's professional vision and competence have elevated her to a leadership position. She has been recognized for her business acumen by serving on the Committee of America's Women Business Leaders and as a past Director of the Greater Washington Board of Trade. In addition, she was named one of the Most Powerful Women in Washington in 1997, and was selected to be a member of the Top 500 Women Owned Business Group and the Top 25 Women Who Mean Business by the Washington Business Journal.

Betty is also a dedicated public servant who is deeply concerned about our community. She has served on numerous boards and foundations in the greater Washington, D.C., area, including the Prince George's Hospital Foundation, the University of Maryland's Foundation Board of Directors, and United Cerebral Palsy.

In addition to her charity work, Betty has also given her time and expertise to her community by serving as a member of the Maryland Judicial Compensation Committee, the Anne Arundel Planning Advisory Board, and the University of Maryland Commission for School Cooperation.

It is a testament to Betty's talents that she has accomplished so much in the professional world while also raising a wonderful family, including her children Kelly, Erin, Tim and Dan.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Buck is an inspiration to all those who desire a career in business and who also want to raise a family and be engaged in their community. I salute her efforts, as she rises to the position of Chairman of the National Beer Wholesalers Association.

CONGRATULATING SILVER STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON CELEBRATING 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to recognize an elementary school in my district for a truly significant occasion. Silver Street Elementary School in New Albany, IN will celebrate its 90th Anniversary on September 11, 2006, and will welcome another class this year to continue its history of educating the youth of New Albany.

Silver Street Elementary first opened its doors in 1916. Since then, many generations have passed through its halls. The long history of Silver Street allows grandparents to watch their grandkids walk the same halls they once did years before.

Silver Street has continued to be an excellent education institution. Last month, the school received the first Exemplary Award from the State for improving each year in the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress test scores.

The philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau once wrote, "We are born weak, we need strength; helpless, we need aid; foolish, we need reason. All that we lack at birth, all that we need when we come to man's estate, is the gift of education." Silver Street Elementary has provided this gift for 90 years and the teachers, administrators and parents involved who provided this valuable service to the New Albany community should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize this fine elementary school that has educated many Hoosiers from Southern Indiana. It is an honor to have a historic building still being utilized for educational purposes in the district I represent. Congratulations to Silver Street Elementary for 90 years of success.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as a supporter of ensuring our service personnel have access to a wide range of financial products I am concerned with the provision of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, S. 418, enacting a complete prohibition on so-called contractual or periodic payment mutual funds, which, according to testimony received by the House Committee on Financial Services, are sold voluntarily with full disclosure to officers at individual meetings held off base.

This is the first time in recent memory that this committee has ever proposed banning a product that is fully permissible under current law and that—again according to testimony received by the committee—is used by thousands of senior military officials to facilitate their financial security. Specifically, we were told that the clients of First Command Financial Planning, the Texas-based company principally involved in this market, has invested

\$734.4 million aggregate in these accounts in 2004. The sales charge on that amount was about \$44 million, or about six percent. What is the basis for outlawing a product that over half a million individuals, including half the flag officers on active duty at the time, had freely chosen? Do we really believe that individuals charged with the deployment of billions of dollars of military equipment, are not sophisticated enough to make their own financial decisions?

When the Congress last looked at this product in 1970, we recognized periodic payment mutual funds are a valuable means to help encourage savings by people who do not have large amounts of discretionary income. I have seen no evidence in the record indicating that the judgment then was incorrect. In fact, testimony received by the Financial Services Committee indicates that these periodic payment mutual funds are working for those military members choosing to utilize them.

Before voting on S. 418, Congress should consider whether it is in the best interests of our armed services to substitute our judgment for theirs by banning a financial product that the armed services deem well-suited for their financial security.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Enhanced Options for Rural Health Care Act. This legislation allows critical access hospitals to use beds designated for critical access use, but currently not being used for that purpose, for assisted living services financed by private payments.

This bill will help improve the financial status of small rural hospitals and extend the health care options available to people living in rural areas without increasing federal expenditures. Currently, fear that rural hospitals will lose critical access status if beds designated for critical access are used for another purpose is causing rural hospitals to allow beds not needed for a critical access purpose to remain unused. This deprives rural hospitals of a much-needed revenue stream and deprives residents of rural areas of access to needed health care services.

My colleagues may be interested to know that the idea for this bill comes from Marcella Henke, an administrator of Jackson County Hospital, a critical access hospital in my congressional district. Ms. Henke conceived of this idea as a way to meet the increasing demand for assisted living services in rural areas and provide hospitals with a profitable way to use beds not being used for critical access purposes. I urge my colleagues to embrace this practical way of strengthening rural health care without increasing federal expenditures by cosponsoring the Enhanced Options for Rural Health Care Act.

HONORING SEAN T. CONNAUGHTON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia and myself to recognize The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton, former Prince William Board of County Supervisors chairman. Sean was recently confirmed as Maritime Administrator in the Department of Transportation and his education and experience will serve him well at the federal level.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize the dedication that Mr. Connaughton showed the people of northern Virginia as Prince William chairman. At a time when northern Virginia was experiencing heavy population growth, Mr. Connaughton took his responsibilities as an elected official very seriously. Prince William's financial resources were well managed and Mr. Connaughton made significant improvements in terms of education, economic development, public safety, and transportation. On behalf of Virginia's 10th and 11th districts we want to thank Chairman Connaughton on his exemplary service.

Mr. Connaughton is a U.S. Naval War College graduate and alumni of the Merchant Marine Academy. While serving as Prince William chairman he also worked as an attorney dealing with maritime laws and is a part of the Maritime Law Association. A U.S. Naval Reserve commander and former active-duty member of the U.S. Coast Guard, his accomplishments speak for themselves. We have every reason to believe that Mr. Connaughton will be an asset to the Department of Transportation and want to congratulate him upon his confirmation.

IN RECOGNITION OF
JAMES BARR III

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House TDS Telecommunication Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Barr III.

For seventeen years, James Barr has been an exemplary leader of a growing Wisconsin business and has served the telecommunications industry with both integrity and distinction. He has played an integral role in the development of TDS Telecom, quintupling annual revenue to more than \$900 million and successfully elevating the company to the sixth largest independent telephone company in the country.

Not only did Barr build a customer-focused organization that has won many awards for customer care, he touched the lives of numerous employees which helped him create a vibrant organization with 3200 employees serving 1.2 million customers in 29 states.

But beyond his hard work and dedication on the job Barr is above all else an upstanding person. Barr has been an excellent leader of several telecommunications boards and service organizations including the United Way of Dane County as well as a caring and supportive husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barr should be commended for his outstanding contributions to the telecommunications industry as well as the great state of Wisconsin. I congratulate him on his years of service and exemplary citizenship and wish him the best in his retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4844, FEDERAL ELECTION
INTEGRITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this bill in its present form.

Having taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, I have a solemn responsibility to vote against even the most politically popular proposals when there are serious doubts about the constitutionality of the legislation. And this bill, transparently brought forward to help the Republican majority whip up public emotions on the eve of a tough election, poses serious constitutional problems—in short, I think it violates the 24th Amendment.

That amendment, added to the Constitution in 1964, says that the rights of Americans to vote in federal elections “shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax” and that Congress “shall have the power to enforce” that part of the Constitution.

But instead of enforcing that constitutional bar on making voting a taxable event, this bill would require states to choose between making some people pay to vote and paying to provide them with the identification that the bill says will be required if they want to exercise that right.

The bill's supporters say the bill is constitutional because it says that states cannot make everyone pay for identification—they have to provide it free to people who cannot afford the “reasonable cost” of providing it.

But the 24th Amendment is not ambiguous on whether it is permissible to make some people pay to vote, so long as they can afford it. Instead, it makes clear that no Americans—regardless of their income—can be forced to pay “any . . . tax” in order to vote.

And while some may argue that paying for a government-issued ID is not a tax, but just some kind of “user fee,” I am not persuaded—and I would remind them of the words of Richard Darman, OMB Director under President Reagan, who said that “if it looks like a duck and walks like a duck and quacks like duck, it is a duck, [and] euphemisms like user fees will not fool the public.”

That's one of the reasons the National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes the bill—because, as they say in their letter to the Speaker and Minority Leader, “we fear that any fee imposed on other voters [besides those claiming to be too poor to afford an ID] could be characterized as a poll tax and be subject to challenge in court.”

Further, aside from the constitutional questions, both NACo and the National Conference of State Legislatures oppose the bill because it would impose a burdensome unfunded mandate on every state and every local government. And, as the Conference points out, the bill “is duplicative” and “adds bureaucratic burdens that are completely unnecessary. The REAL ID Act, flawed though it is, already requires a new state identification system based on legal presence . . . This second identification system would be used only for voting [but the Help America Vote Act] . . . and state and local election procedures

already address identification needs [while] . . . This legislation contains only a vague promise to reimburse states for the cost of providing voter ID's to indigent individuals. There is no specific appropriation for this . . . and little likelihood for one."

If the Republican leadership had been willing to allow the House to consider amendments, changes could have been made to remove any doubts about its constitutionality and to avoid burdening the state and local governments with unnecessary burdens. However, instead the leadership insisted on bringing the bill to the floor under a procedure that prevented that—one of the reasons that many have questioned whether the real purpose of the bill is less to respond to potential election fraud and more to make it harder for some citizens to vote.

I am not opposed to a carefully constructed and constitutional bill that would enhance workplace identity, which is why I support H.R. 98. Nor am I opposed to legislating in order to ensure that non-citizens and others ineligible to vote are prevented from voting fraudulently. And I am hopeful that once the heat of this election season passes, the House will return to a more deliberative and bipartisan way of doing business on this issue and others.

But, in the meantime, I think this bill does not merit enactment as it stands because its defects outweigh whatever value it may have as a supplement to the existing state and federal laws against election fraud.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAY HAAS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MOBILE AIRPORT AUTHORITY AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Bay Haas upon the recent announcement of his plans to retire. For the past 33 years, Mr. Haas has served the Mobile community in a distinguished manner.

Following 9 years at IBM, Mr. Haas began his career in public service in 1972 when he was elected to serve on the Mobile County Commission, one of the youngest men at the time to serve in such an important post. He has since devoted his life to the well-being and development of south Alabama. In addition to his two terms on the Mobile County Commission, Bay Haas has served as executive director of the Mobile Airport Authority since 1983.

Following 24 years at the Mobile Airport Authority, Mr. Haas announced his plans to retire in June of next year. For nearly a quarter of a century at the Mobile Airport Authority, Bay has been committed to aiding Mobile's industrial growth. His efforts have been critical in recruiting what is now ST Mobile Aerospace Engineering for Brookley, Mobile's largest industrial employer, and more recently, EADS North America. Bay's distinguished work has helped gain Mobile greater recognition in the international aerospace field.

Not only has Bay served the Mobile community with his role at the Mobile Airport Author-

ity, but he has various other leadership positions throughout the city. He currently serves as a member of the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Cruise Ship Task Force, the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Task Force, the Mobile Area Education Foundation, and as chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Bay Haas for his tireless service to Mobile. I know Bay's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for all his efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM S. "BILL" MCARTHUR

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel William S. "Bill" McArthur for his valiant service as an Astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Colonel McArthur's dedication, determination and devotion are an inspiration to America and particularly to the citizens of his home county of Robeson and all of southeastern North Carolina.

A native of the community of Wakulla, and a graduate of nearby Red Springs High School, Colonel McArthur has heroically served his country for 33 years. After graduating from West Point in 1973, Colonel McArthur was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was assigned a tour with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Following his tour, he entered the U.S. Army Aviation School from which he graduated at the top of his flight class and was designated an Army aviator. He then served as an aeroscout team leader and brigade aviation section leader with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and later as a company commander, platoon leader, and operations officer with the 24th Combat Aviation Battalion. After receiving a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983, he was assigned to the Department of Mechanics at West Point as an assistant professor. Four years later, Colonel McArthur graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and was designated an experimental test pilot. As a dedicated Master Army Aviator, he completed over 4,500 flight hours in 39 different air and spacecraft.

In 1987, McArthur began his career with NASA as a Space Shuttle vehicle integration test engineer at the Johnson Space Center. Determined to be an astronaut, Colonel McArthur applied 7 times before he was selected by NASA in January 1990 and was officially designated an astronaut in July 1991. Since then, McArthur has worked in various positions within the Astronaut Office and has served as the Chief of the Astronaut Office Flight Support Branch. He has flown on four space flights including the *Columbia* in 1993; the *Atlantis* in 1995; the *Discovery* in 2000; and *Expedition 12* in 2006 of which he was

the Commander and International Space Station Science Officer. During his devoted service, Colonel McArthur has logged 224 days, 22 hours, 28 minutes and 10 seconds in space, including 24 hours and 21 minutes of EVA time in space walks, and he has completed 556 orbits of the Earth.

Mr. Speaker, in 1962 President John F. Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people." Colonel Bill McArthur reminds us that there is still much to be gained—for the benefit of all mankind—as we continue to explore space. On behalf of all the citizens of southeastern North Carolina and the United States, we thank him for all he has done to make this a better place. May God bless him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLY TAYLOR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as an original Co-Chair of the Honorary Congressional Host Committee for the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, with Representative JOHN CONYERS, I rise today to recognize one of America's great jazz musicians and celebrated music innovators, Dr. Billy Taylor. As we look forward to and celebrate the second annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival in the District of Columbia, we recognize the talented individuals who contributed to the unique sounds that form modern jazz. As a world-renowned jazz artist who uses his talent not only to entertain, but also to educate and inspire, Dr. Billy Taylor will be honored this year with the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. He joins last year's inaugural honoree, David Brubeck, as a recipient of this award.

I am proud that Dr. Taylor grew up in the District of Columbia in a family that valued artistic expression through music. His talent was undeniable. Dr. Taylor experimented with the sounds of the saxophone, drums, guitar and piano, receiving lessons from Henry Grant, who taught classical piano to the legendary Duke Ellington 20 years earlier. By the age of 13, Dr. Taylor had made his first professional appearance at the Republic Gardens on U Street.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in music from Virginia State University, Dr. Taylor took time off to continue to study, practice and perfect his musical skills. In 1944, he set out for New York City and became instantly emerged in the music scene. Soon after his arrival, Dr. Taylor was invited to play piano in saxophonist Ben Webster's quartet. He also performed on 52nd Street with the legendary Dizzy Gillespie. In 1946, Dr. Taylor embarked on an 8-month tour of Europe with Don Redman's Orchestra, the first American band to visit the continent after World War II. Upon his return, Billy Taylor became the house pianist at Birdland, the historic jazz venue where he was surrounded by pioneering jazz musicians and played with greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Miles Davis.

As an eminent jazz musician, Billy Taylor began to educate the public on the world of

jazz. In the early 1960's, Dr. Taylor became the first black artist to host a daily radio show, "The Billy Taylor Show," on WNEW, a major New York station. Dr. Taylor also brought jazz back to Harlem and the surrounding communities through the revolutionary Jazzmobile project, which he co-founded with Daphne Arnstein, a fellow member of the Harlem Cultural Council. The Jazzmobile began with a float borrowed from the Budweiser Beer Company that was converted into a bandstand-on-wheels. The organization produced summer outdoor concerts, lectures and special programs for disadvantaged inner-city youth. Renowned artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Buddy Rich, and Milt Jackson all contributed to the Jazzmobile by performing free outdoor concerts for the public. In particular, Dr. Taylor recalled the excitement of the audience when Duke Ellington performed, saying, "I don't know who was more excited, the audience, or Duke. He loved playing for the people of Harlem, and they loved him, madly." The program continues today throughout the United States.

Billy Taylor's recording career is nothing short of extraordinary. With more than two dozen albums recorded over a span of six decades, Dr. Taylor is renowned within the recording community through such compositions as, "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free" and "Peaceful Warrior," a work inspired by and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1990, Dr. Taylor was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President George H.W. Bush and also has received two Peabody Awards, an Emmy, and a Grammy.

Dr. Taylor continues to be the country's spokesman for jazz. From 1977 until 1982, Dr. Taylor hosted "Jazz Alive," National Public Radio's most listened-to jazz program of its time.

In March 1993, he was appointed Jazz Adviser to the Kennedy Center, where he was responsible for dramatically expanding and enhancing its jazz program—and although he has officially retired, Dr. Taylor is busier than ever, continuing to provide his expertise to the institution. As with Jazzmobile, Billy Taylor continues to create outreach activities and public performances to expose people of all ages to the genre of Jazz at the Kennedy Center. At the University of Massachusetts, where he is the Wilmer D. Barrett Professor of Music, Dr. Taylor leads the annual Jazz in July program.

As we prepare for the 2nd Annual Duke Ellington Festival to be held in October, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Billy Taylor for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the genre of jazz and to the world at large. He is not only an extraordinary artist, but also a renowned and celebrated professional who has dedicated his life to bringing music to the masses. Dr. Billy Taylor inspires the next generation of musicians to continue in his footsteps and not only excel in their musical performances, but also to motivate and educate.

THE MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, S. 418, as passed by the Senate. The bill amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to make it unlawful for any registered investment company to issue or sell any periodic payment plan certificate. In short, the bill will protect the members of our Armed Forces from unscrupulous practices regarding the sale of insurance as well as other financial and investment products.

Many of us have known for some time that members of our Armed Services have been preyed upon by unscrupulous individuals in the financial services arena. Members of the Armed Services are often the victims of aggressive and misleading sales practices and schemes that result in exorbitant commissions and fees for insurance products, etc. Some sales commissions are in excess of 50 percent on the first year of contributions to the insurance product. In addition, certain life insurance products are being marketed as investment products, providing minimal death benefits in exchange for excessive up-front premiums.

I believe that this bill takes a major step to close the existing loophole in the law allowing for the proliferation in the sale of these products. Mr. Speaker, it would be disgraceful if, after the sacrifices made by the men and women in our armed services, this body allowed these practices to continue. Today we should send a strong message to the people in the industry who would put profit above the well-being of our troops by passing S. 418.

The sooner we can pass this legislation and other measures to protect our service men and women from these predators the better off we will be. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5450 and applaud Representative EHLERS, Chairman BOEHLERT and the members of the House Science committee for their work on this bill. However, I am also deeply concerned with H.R. 5450. My concern, however, is not what is actually in this bill, but what is missing. Because the House Resources Committee refused to consider this important legislation, we are now debating a bill that does not include authorization for the oceanic component of NOAA.

This greatly disappoints me. As a co-chair of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus, I have worked closely with the line offices of NOAA that handle ocean stewardship, and I

have always been amazed at the size and importance of their mission considering what little Congress gives them in the way of guidance or funds. Funding that should go to NOAA to bolster ocean research and management already pales in comparison to other natural resource programs, and now, we are about to authorize only the atmospheric component of NOAA. This is just another example of the failure of this Congress to make the management of our oceans a priority. This amazes me, considering the size and economic value of our oceans.

We have been called to make our oceans a greater priority for more than 6 years now. When are we going to act? After our fish stocks are fully depleted? After global warming have caused rising sea levels to erode our beaches and the oceans to become so acidic that coral reefs have wasted away? In 2000, with the passage of the Oceans Act, Congress called for a National Commission on Ocean Policy to conduct a nationwide fact-finding mission on the state of our oceans. The goal was to develop policy recommendations that would lead to a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. The independent Pew Oceans Commission underwent a similar process to identify the root problems threatening our nations' oceans. The products of these two commissions are nothing short of remarkable. Both commissions independently came to the same clear message: our oceans are in peril.

It is NOAA that must tackle these challenges. As the lead agency on ocean management, both commissions acknowledged the size of the task that NOAA faces. Americans are facing declining fish stocks, beach closures due to poor water quality, and laws that are inadequate to protect America's oceans. Both commissions have called on Congress repeatedly to provide NOAA with an organic act. In fact, both have listed an organic act as one of the highest priorities in taking steps towards better management of our oceans.

NOAA already administers the core programs that manage our ocean resources, and again, does so under an ever tightening budget. For example, National Marine Fisheries Service manages all Federal fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management administers the Coastal Zone Management Act that protects our coasts from pollution and erosion. Congress sure likes to give NOAA a lot to do, but nothing to do it with.

Furthermore, NOAA also administers a number of completely unauthorized programs that Americans depend on. The Ocean and Atmospheric Research office played a lead role in helping institute an integrated ocean observation system based on what we already have in the Gulf of Maine. Analogous to the routine monitoring of weather and climate, ocean observation collects a myriad of temperature and current data that enhances the prediction of hurricanes and storms, the impacts of global warming, and is used by search and rescue teams and shipping fleets for navigation. Despite the multiple uses of ocean observation, the regional associations are now at risk of shutting down because as an unauthorized program, they are unable to find a sustainable funding path. It is ridiculous. In essence, this innovative program may have to shut down for being too ahead of its time.

The challenges NOAA faces are only going to increase over the next century. More than

50 percent of the population already lives in coastal counties, and the numbers are rising. To support NOAA in their task, Congress must provide it with a full organic act. With an organic act, the offices that run the core programs that Americans nation-wide depend on would be provided with an established mission. A clear mission would help NOAA prioritize and justify itself during appropriations, perhaps heading off the crippling cuts that are leveled against it each year. Guidance from Congress would also help NOAA reorganize and enhance inter-office and inter-agency communication, thus making NOAA operations more efficient and streamlined.

While I support H.R. 5450 for taking us toward the goal of authorizing NOAA, we must remember it only takes us halfway. By authorizing only the atmospheric and educational components of NOAA, we fail half of this vital agency, and I urge Congress to make a full organic act for NOAA a priority.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, from hurricanes and floods in Latin America to earthquakes in Asia, natural disasters are increasingly becoming a regular feature of life for large numbers of people around the globe. By 2050, two billion people are expected to be especially vulnerable to floods due to growing populations, indiscriminate logging on hillsides, rapid urbanization, and increasing development along coasts and in other hazardous regions.

Thankfully, as I have seen on trips to disaster-affected area, the devastating impacts of natural disasters can be mitigated by building in safer locations, constructing sturdier dwellings, enforcing sound building practices, and protecting natural ecosystems. For example, communities in Indonesia that had intact mangrove stands along their coastlines were protected from the full force of the December 2004 tsunami and faced less damage and fewer lives lost. In many Indonesian towns, the only buildings left standing were the mosques, having been built to a higher standard.

In 2004, the United States spent \$529 million responding to disasters in foreign countries, making us the largest donor for disaster relief, recovery, and rehabilitation. However, according to a study by the World Bank and the United States Geological Survey, during the 1990s, \$40 billion invested globally in preventive measures could have saved \$280 billion in disaster relief funds and saved countless lives.

To address these issues, Mr. BURTON and I are introducing the International Disaster Risk Reduction Act. This bill promotes the use of disaster mitigation efforts in foreign countries, authorizes assistance to help in those efforts, and requires that U.S. disaster relief efforts help make communities less vulnerable to future disasters.

IN HONOR OF PLANTRONICS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Plantronics of Santa Cruz, California on being recognized as one of the "Top 25 medium companies places to work for in America" by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). This honor is bestowed only upon the most deserving companies in the country who meet high standards of employment.

Plantronics is a hardware company from Santa Cruz that specializes in lightweight headsets and is the market leader worldwide. The company was founded in 1961, and was the first to introduce the lightweight communication headset in 1962, and in 1969 a Plantronics headset carried Neil Armstrong's first words from the moon. Plantronics have remained on the cutting edge of headset technology ever since it's founding and continue to raise the bar in the field.

Each of the companies recognized by SHRM is dedicated to communicating clearly with their employees and encouraging their workers to voice their opinions. In addition, these companies provide generous salaries and benefit packages. In return, their employees are motivated and invested in the organization, making these companies some of the most successful medium-sized businesses in their industries.

Plantronics is known to have flexible hours for its employees, allowing them to take time to participate in exciting activities that Santa Cruz has to offer such as surfing, cycling, and hiking. They have a subsidized on-site cafeteria which serves locally grown, organic fruits and vegetables. Importantly, Plantronics is active in the community, and contributes to local service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge Plantronics for their recognition as one of the best places to work in the country and I wish them continued success.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF UNION REPRESENTATIVE GERI OCHOCINSKA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the career of Union Organizer and Negotiator Geri Ochocinska, who is retiring after a distinguished career as Director of UAW Region 9.

Ms. Ochocinska has been a leader of Buffalo's Labor movement since 1965 when she helped organize Rich Ice Cream Co. Following this success, she joined UAW Local 55 as a Technical, Office and Professional unit Chair. She was then promoted up the ranks of Local 55, serving at various times as Office Manager, Administrative Assistant to retirement and welfare funds, Business Representative, Vice President and Financial Secretary.

In 1976, Ms. Ochocinska was appointed International Representative, servicing 60

companies in the Western New York area for her local UAW. She held this post until her election as UAW Regional Director.

Elected in 1998, Ms. Ochocinska became the first woman to hold the post of Regional Director of the UAW. As Regional Director of UAW Region 9, Ms. Ochocinska represented the 91,898 active and retired members of the UAW from Western and Central New York, New Jersey, and most of Pennsylvania. She was re-elected to her post in 2002.

A recent article printed in Western New York's Business Newspaper, Business First, pointed out that Geri Ochocinska has risen higher than any woman in the history of organized labor in Western New York. Geri receives recognition as a great negotiator. She is a woman who takes firm stands in negotiations. She also is known for her compassion and for the nurturing ways she cared for and fought for UAW workers.

Ms. Ochocinska's retirement is a loss to the Labor Community of Western New York, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her and congratulate her for a lifetime of service to the working men and women of Western New York.

HONORING THE HONORABLE MARY DENNY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Mary Denny for her service in the Texas House of Representatives.

Representative Denny has played an intricate part in the development of the Republican Party in Denton and the North Texas region over the past 20 years. She has helped in over 300 State, Local and National elections in her career and has represented Denton County in both State and National Republican conventions.

As a local businesswoman and former teacher, she graduated from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in Education. She is presently serving her 6th term as State Representative for the 63rd district in Texas. Currently Mrs. Denny is assigned to several House Committees including; Chairman of Elections, House Criminal Jurisprudence, House Administration committee, and the Select Committee on Ethics.

Throughout her amazing career Mrs. Denny has received several awards recognizing her achievements as both a businesswoman and a legislator. She has been recognized for the past four consecutive terms as a Leader of Excellence by the Free Enterprise Committee, a special honor given to the top ten percent of conservative legislators. She has also been recognized as a Friend to the Taxpayer and honored as an Outstanding Legislator by the American Family Association of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my distinguished honor to work alongside Mrs. Mary Denny for the improvement and development of Denton, Texas. Her leadership and commitment to the citizens of Denton County is remarkable and it has been a privilege to know such a dedicated individual.

IN TRIBUTE TO LEONARD SYKES

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Leonard Sykes, Jr., a highly respected, deeply principled and thoroughly knowledgeable Milwaukee journalist. Mr. Sykes died September 17, after suffering a stroke earlier this summer.

Mr. Sykes dedicated his professional life to ensuring that the practice of journalism in Milwaukee and across the country should grow to reflect the full range of life in communities of color. He came to Milwaukee in 1986, having already established a strong journalism career with stints at Jet Magazine and the Waukegan, IL, News-Sun. During his tenure at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, he covered issues that were at the heart of the urban, African American experience, including civil rights, poverty, job training, and anti-violence efforts. He was dedicated to highlighting community efforts that helped hold families and neighborhoods together. A one-time city editor at the Journal Sentinel, he was working as urban affairs reporter at the time of his death.

An award-winning journalist and consummate professional, Mr. Sykes was known throughout the Milwaukee area for bringing dignity and passion to his work. His writing never failed to highlight a keen understanding of the issues. His unique insights derived from skillful research and encyclopedic knowledge of Milwaukee and its people. His no-nonsense approach to the issues sometimes touched a nerve with policymakers, power brokers, and the community at large. Perhaps because of his commitment to seeking truth and airing out the assumptions that underlay conventional wisdom, his work was well respected among the powerful and disenfranchised alike.

As chair of the Journal Sentinel's Minority Caucus, and through his work with the Wisconsin Association of Black Journalists, Mr. Sykes endeavored to expand coverage of communities of color across the state and throughout the country. Notwithstanding this effort—and the glimpse it afforded into the African American community—his reach, focus and scope transcended race. I will miss his powerful intellect and his commitment to using his position to speak truth to power. His death leaves a void not only in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newsroom, but in the Milwaukee community as a whole.

HONORING THE PLAINVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON
ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the leadership and congregates of the Plainville United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

Every day, the members of the Plainville United Methodist Church give testament to the

church's mission to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church through their prayers, presence, gifts and service.

This mission began in the late 1870s when "The People called Methodist" began their witness in Plainville. A tent was used as their place of worship while the church was constructed. On December 26, 1881, the cornerstone was laid for the old building on Canal and Broad Streets, and the edifice was made ready for occupancy on November 15 of the following year.

For many families and communities, the beliefs held and shared in places of worship play an important role in their daily lives. The congregation of the United Methodist Church has proven through the years that its faith is as firm and unshakeable as the foundation of the building in which it worships today. I hope that the 125th anniversary celebration represents the beginning of many more years of worship and community for the Plainville United Methodist Church and the many individuals and families who comprise its congregation.

HONORING ERIKSON INSTITUTE'S
40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Erikson Institute of Chicago on its 40th anniversary. The Erikson Institute is an innovative institution dedicated to cultivating superior early childhood educators of minority and low-income children. The Erikson Institute was founded as a response to increased government programs for early childhood education. With the inception of the Head Start program in 1965, three esteemed child advocates—Maria Peirs, Lorraine Wallach, and Barbara Taylor Bowman—recognized the need for quality early child educators, especially those trained to teach minority and low-income children. Erikson Institute, with financial help from Irving B. Harris, opened its doors in 1966 and has upheld its commitment to excellence throughout the past four decades.

Erikson's mission of ensuring that every adult who works with young children is knowledgeable, aware, and skilled is more important now than ever. Early childhood education is especially important to low-income children. Therefore we know that prekindergarten programs have a positive impact on the cognitive performance of children living in poverty. A critical component in the process of educating young children is having well-trained teachers. In 2001, 72 percent of all urban public school elementary students in prekindergarten programs came from families classified as low-income by the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study. This study also found that roughly half, 51 percent, were minority students. In Chicago there are 19,053 pre-school students, 2,659 of which are special needs children. The 7th District of Illinois, my congressional district, is home to 11,966 pre-school students. Clearly, there is a need for quality early childhood educators. The Erikson Institute fulfills an important role in training these instructors.

Graduates of the Erikson Institute have learned every aspect of childhood develop-

ment. Not only does the Erikson Institute provide a superior education, they also conduct important research on the needs of young children. Professors and researchers at Erikson are committed to sharing their knowledge with both the academic community and the general public. The Erikson Institute is dedicated to outcomes—understanding what works and how—as well as the repetition of successful models. The Erikson Institute's formula for success has greatly benefited numerous programs in the Chicago area, including: Early Head Start; Chicago Public Schools; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Early Childhood Unit; and Children's Place Project to name a few. Their impact is felt nationwide with over 2,500 graduates a year working in various regions of the country.

Mr. Speaker, as W.E.B. DuBois once said, "We must insist upon this, to give our children the fairness of a start which will equip them with such an array of facts and such an attitude toward truth that they can have a real chance to judge what the world and what its greater minds have thought it might be." It is my great honor to commend the Erikson Institute on four decades of excellence in training those who educate our youngest children.

NATIONAL PSORIASIS
FOUNDATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Psoriasis Foundation and of August as Psoriasis Awareness Month to bring much-needed attention to an often overlooked and serious disease that affects constituents in each of our districts. According to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, as many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Ten to thirty percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. Psoriasis is widely misunderstood, minimized and undertreated. In addition to the pain, itching and bleeding caused by psoriasis, many affected individuals also experience social discrimination and stigma. Many people also mistakenly believe psoriasis to be contagious. Psoriasis typically first strikes between the ages of 15 and 25 and lasts a lifetime. As such, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis impose significant burden on individuals and society; together they cost the Nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in treatments each year.

Despite the serious adverse effects that psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have on individuals, families and society, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are underrecognized and underfunded by our Nation's research institutions. The NIH has spent less than \$1 per person with psoriasis on average each of the last 10 years. At the historical and current rate of psoriasis funding, NIH funding is not keeping pace with research needs. The scientific advisors of the National Psoriasis Foundation believe that between 5 and 10 additional psoriasis-specific investigator-initiated research

grants are needed each year to begin to make real progress toward improved treatments and, eventually, a cure.

There are an average of 17,000 people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in every congressional district—estimate based on 2000 Census Data/Census apportionment population with the average size of a congressional district of 646,952 and prevalence rate of 2.6 percent. Approximately 320,000 people are affected by psoriasis in Pennsylvania.

Fortunately, we have two support groups in Pennsylvania affiliated with the National Psoriasis Foundation. I am pleased that my constituents have a welcome and knowledgeable support group to help them know they need not face their disease without help. Support group interaction and discussion provides individuals affected by this debilitating disease with much-needed comfort, assistance and resources. The work of the support groups in Pennsylvania is invaluable, and I commend the efforts of those involved.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 38 years and am grateful to the foundation and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life of people who have psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Moreover, I thank the constituents, Kathleen Brickley, Carl and Sandy Christofano, Eileen Gallant and Lara Wine Lee, who visited my Washington, DC, office earlier this year to educate me and my staff about the challenges associated with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. This year, the National Psoriasis Foundation had nearly 100 participants join in its Capitol Hill Day to elevate awareness and understanding of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and have policymakers take action to address access to care and boost the Nation's research efforts.

Too many people suffer needlessly from psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis due to incorrect or delayed diagnosis, inadequate treatment options, and/or insufficient access to care. I stand ready to work with my constituents and the National Psoriasis Foundation to help elevate the importance of expanding psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research and ensuring access to care and treatment for this disease. I urge my colleagues to learn more about psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, to take action to support their affected constituents and to support the National Psoriasis Foundation in its important endeavors.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Topeka High School building. Topeka High is the largest high school in the Kansas capital, with more than 2,000 students in the student body. It is also a focal point of pride for the entire community.

Most recognized by its 165-foot bell tower, the school owes its gothic architecture to Chester Woodward, a local financier and bibliophile, who led the Board of Education during the school's construction. At least three British

landmarks inspired the Troy campus, including Henry VIII's Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace and the College Tower of Magdalen College, Oxford.

But the school's gothic architecture is not its only notable feature. Topeka High also has a unique relationship with the Navy's oldest warship, the U.S.S. *Constitution*, "Old Ironsides." Its cross jack spar is the school's main flagpole on THS Constitution Plaza. In June 2005, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

More important than the physical structure though, are the men and women who have taught and studied at Topeka High School since its doors opened in 1871. Over 40,000 students have proudly worn the colors of black and gold since then. Its alumni include a Vice President of the United States, a U.S. Senator, a university president, a Fortune 500 CEO, a World War II fighter pilot, and four Rhodes Scholars among many other distinguished alumni.

Like any venerable institution, Topeka High School's faculty and student body has earned numerous awards. Topeka High has boasted numerous State and National champions in debate, forensics, Junior ROTC drill, music, foreign language, math, and athletic competitions. As an institution, THS has previously been recognized with the Bellamy Flag Award as best school in the State, and the U.S. Department of Education recognized Topeka High in 1989 as a School of Excellence.

So on the occasion of this 75th Anniversary, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the students, teachers, and administrators of Topeka High School. The school continues to be a cornerstone of the Topeka community. It is my hope that we can honor the legacy of those who have created this great school by committing to the education of the next generation of leaders for Topeka, Kansas, and the Nation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to using my best informed judgment in deciding how I vote on each bill that comes before the House of Representatives.

My goal for securing the borders is to provide the U.S. Border Patrol with the right tools, assets, including fences and vehicle barriers, equipment, and number of agents to interdict every person trying to illegally cross into our country. We should approach meeting this goal in a systematic and thoughtful process. In my judgment, The Secure Fence Act does not do this.

The first step is to thoroughly analyze what is needed along all of our borders to meet our goal. At a minimum, the Border Patrol should be asked to provide us with what they think in their professional judgment is needed to do their job. The Secure Fence Act starts this type of analysis as it relates to the northern and maritime borders with the requirement that the Department of Homeland Security

spend the next year developing a rational program for meeting our goal as it relates to these borders. As for the southern border, the bill simply requires that 700 miles of fencing be built at locations fixed by the bill by May 2008.

The bill set the amount of fencing for the southern border at 700 miles without properly consulting the Border Patrol, who knows best where a fence is needed. A proper analysis of the problem may show that we actually need 1,000 miles or it may show us that only 500 miles is needed to secure the border. In addition to knowing how much fencing is needed and where the fencing will be most effective, we should know how much the fencing is going to cost. At the time of the vote, the Congressional Budget Office had not determined how much the fencing and the other mandates in the bill are going to cost. While cost is not necessarily determinative of whether we should proceed, nevertheless it is an important consideration that should have been known before we voted on the bill.

The bill designates specifically where the fencing is to be built in Texas. The communities where the fence is mandated to be constructed should have some input into this bill before the law was passed. Also, most of the border between Texas and Mexico is private property. We should have known what impact that will have on the cost of constructing the fence as well as how much of the property might have to be taken via eminent domain proceedings.

One final note Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to try, although we are rarely successful, to work with members of the other party when we are developing public policy. Congressman SILVESTRE REYES, a former Border Patrol sector chief from El Paso, voted against the bill, as did Congressmen HENRY CUELLAR, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, and SOLOMON ORTIZ, all of whom represent parts of the border.

Mr. Speaker, I remain fully committed to securing the border. I am also committed to achieving that goal in the best and most cost effective manner possible. I will continue to work with my colleagues on securing our borders in the weeks ahead. It is important that we get it done as quickly as possible, but simply throwing up a costly fence without the proper planning is not the answer.

IN HONOR OF MS. LISA BLUNT-BRADLEY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Lisa Blunt-Bradley in recognition of her service as president and CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League.

The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, MWUL, actively works to assist the disproportionate number of African-American, Latino, and other ethnic populations who remain susceptible to wide-ranging disparities in income and educational attainment for themselves and their children. Under Lisa's leadership, the MWUL has built opportunities for people of color by setting the tone of the public policy

discourse, engaging in principled advocacy, and creating strong community partnerships.

In 2004, Ms. Blunt-Bradley became President of the MWUL and under her leadership the organization successfully implemented the Achievement Matters Education Program. The Achievement Matters Campaign is an academic achievement initiative that will provide community and school-based interventions for children in Wilmington from grade 6 through to graduation. The program is designed to provide underprivileged children with the skills they will need to be competitive in the job market of tomorrow.

Ms. Blunt-Bradley's successful career did not begin at the MWUL; she has a long legacy of successful advocacy work. The American Council of Young Political Leaders honored Ms. Blunt-Bradley with the Gary L. McPherson Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. Additionally, prior to working at the MWUL, Ms. Blunt-Bradley served as Secretary of Labor and Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services for the State of Delaware. In those roles she oversaw the day-to-day management of the largest agency in the State of Delaware with approximately 4,500 employees. Her supervisory responsibilities included providing services to individuals with disabilities, and providing emergency shelter for the homeless. In addition, as the State agency's liaison to the Delaware General Assembly, she worked on issues such as child support enforcement legislation and regulation of managed healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to once again commend Ms. Blunt-Bradley on her success while at the helm of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. Lisa's constant professionalism, tireless leadership, and appetite for hard work have improved the lives of countless children and adults in Wilmington and throughout the State of Delaware.

IN HONOR OF 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the nation of Armenia and all people of Armenian descent. Today marks the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence, and is a proud day for the people of a country that has struggled for so long and succeeded so greatly.

The mass killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire was the first genocide of the 20th century. I am proud that the United States stood by as an ally to Armenia at that time and has continued to do so throughout the last century. During the cold war, the United States championed the rights of the Armenian people to be independent, and was one of the first countries to recognize that independence in 1991.

As one of the first countries in post Soviet Union Europe to embrace the ideals of freedom and democracy, Armenia has taken great strides down the path of democratic change and development. All of this has been done in the shadow of the great adversity that these proud people have endured. Over the last fifteen years the Armenians have proven their commitment to democratic values and a secure and stable Caspian region.

My district in California is home to thousands of Armenians who I am grateful to have worked with and become friends with during my time in Congress. They, and all Armenian people, deserve our most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous anniversary.

FISHING RULES TAKE THEIR TOLL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in my representation of the City of New Bedford, I have of course spent a significant amount of time on matters affecting the fishing industry that is so vitally important to that community, economically, culturally, and in every other relevant way. In doing so, I have benefited from the wisdom and experience of a number of people involved in the fishing industry, one of whom is Deb Shrader, the executive director of an excellent organization called Shore Support Inc.

As part of a very useful series that the New Bedford Standard Times is carrying on the fishing industry, Deb Shrader published an article in the Standard Times for September 20, which gives an excellent summary of the difficult economic position in which current fishing policy puts so many hardworking people and their families. I hope my colleagues will read this because they will understand why I am working as hard as I am for amendments to the Magnuson Act, which will thoroughly recognize the legitimate economic interests of people in the fishing industry and will do so in ways that do not jeopardize any valid environmental concerns.

Mr. Speaker, no one should be voting on fishing issues without having a full understanding of the matters that Deb Shrader discusses so well, and for that reason I ask that her article from the Wednesday, September 20, Standard Times be printed here.

[From the Standard Times, Sept. 20, 2006]

FISHING RULES TAKE THEIR TOLL

(By Deb Shrader)

How fishing regulations affect the people in a fishing community is nearly a taboo subject. Though the Magnuson Act of 1976 requires that the social and economic impact of fishing regulations be studied, in fact the impacts are rarely measured, the information that is gathered is considered anecdotal or it's ignored. Measuring the cumulative effects of these omissions is impossible, much like retracing the steps of a dinosaur after their extinction.

Presently, Shore Support, Inc. is working with UMass Dartmouth and its School for Marine Science and Technology, and economics Professor Dan Georgianna, to study the most recent effects of regulations on groundfishermen. We have been meeting with fishermen, aboard their boats, to talk with them. I recently spoke with members of a crew who, after spending 10 days at sea, working two nine-hour shifts with three hours rest in between, came home to a paycheck of \$750. If you work out the 18 hour day, multiply by 10, and then divide the \$750 by the 180 hours worked, these fishermen worked for well below minimum wage at about \$4 an hour. The high cost of fuel, coupled with the low prices for fish make me wonder why they still "go down to the sea in ships," and I'm not afraid to ask that question of groundfishermen. The answer is usually that they are fishermen through and

through, and with most of the men in their mid to late forties, the idea of starting at the bottom of a ladder in a new trade is more than depressing. They are used to the unique lifestyle of commercial fishing with its sense of independence, competitiveness and chance to work close to nature.

In 2005, Professor Georgianna and I published a study called "Employment, Income and Working Conditions in New Bedford's Offshore Fisheries." As part of this study, we visited and spoke with the captains and crews from more than half of the offshore scallop and groundfish boats that call New Bedford home port, and are 50 feet or longer.

In this study, working with fishermen and settlement houses, we put a human perspective on the industry. After meeting with crew from more than 200 boats, we found that the workers in the industry are rapidly aging. The average age of a scalloper is 40 with 19 years at sea; the average age of a groundfisherman is 46 with an average of 26 years at sea. These fishermen are professionals with many years of experience, in some cases more than half their lives. During our entire process, we spoke with only four groundfishermen who were 25 years old or younger. We attribute this to the fact that fishing is so very dangerous, that considering the difficulties and insecurities created by a regulatory system, young men are not choosing to fill their father's boots, a practice in previous generations that has kept our port so strong. In fact, many fishermen discourage their children from joining them on the boats. Instead, they discourage their sons from being involved in an industry that has become too complicated and laden with bureaucracy.

It has been predicted that the Port of New Bedford will lose approximately \$15 million due to the changes presented in the most recent Framework 42 (a framework is a process for amending a fisheries plan) of the groundfish regulatory system. Please keep in mind that because we have an offshore fleet, our boats are larger and carry more men than some of the coastal fisheries in other areas. Each groundfishing boat carries three to five men. At the end of each fishing trip, the boat owner and crew split the proceeds. The boat owner usually gets 50 percent of the value of the fish caught, while the crew splits the remaining 50 percent (after expenses like fuel, food, and ice are deducted). Each groundfishing boat represents four to six families' incomes. If this community loses \$15 million in commerce from these regulatory changes, \$7.5 million will be removed from fishermen and their families, which has a wider spread effect than a corporate loss. This would mean \$7.5 million less to pay mortgages and auto loans held by local banks, less to buy groceries in local markets and home goods at the local mall. If you think this crisis will not affect you because you are not involved in this noble industry, you are wrong. These types of losses in a community with rampant unemployment will be devastating to all.

New Bedford is also one of the last great ports as far as what is available for shoreside support industries. The failing of the industry in Gloucester, and other smaller ports, has already caused a collapse of the net makers, dredge builders, welders, ice makers, chandlers, and other support industries in those ports. New Bedford has become one of the last remaining sources for supplies and labor on which all the boats depend. The big question is whether these crucial support industries will survive this regulatory process. Many of these are small businesses and are presently carrying a great deal of debt owed by the boat owners who have a difficult time

paying for expenses due to changing regulations (limited days at sea, catch limits and gear restrictions). Support industries are crucial to the survival of the fleet. And the survival of the fleet is crucial to the survival of the support industries. This interdependence puts our port city in danger of losing not only our fishing fleet, but these businesses as well.

While we all know that money does not bring happiness, not being able to support your family will take the joy out of life. Recently implemented regulations and those proposed in Framework 42 have added a new degree of insecurity to an already difficult industry. Fishing has always been physically demanding and dangerous work.

Fishermen's wives have always worried about whether their husbands would return safely to port. But today, because of these regulations, with each trip, groundfishermen wonder whether they will be able to provide for their families.

HONORING THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Nations International Day of Peace. In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly declared September 21 as the permanent date for International Peace. Its purpose is to encourage the manifestation of the vital Spirit that unifies us amid our diverse ways. In a time where we are witness to mass violence, acts of genocide, and war, the United Nations International Day of Peace draws attention to the need to implement strategies linking development, security, human rights and peace into a cohesive framework.

It also presents an opportunity for citizens of our country to honor the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, which emphasizes the need for the international community to recognize and implement strategies to focus on and ensure assistance for children exposed to harmful and violent situations.

On this day when we focus on the goal of individual and collective progress toward building cultures of peace, we must pause to remember the tragic loss of 2,683 fallen American heroes and the estimated 48,000 civilians in Iraq who have lost their lives due to war and violence.

As the lone remaining superpower, America serves as a model for other nations, and it is our duty to lead other nations to peace. On this International Day of Peace, we must reflect actions our nation can take to alleviate tensions and causes of conflict, such as bringing our troops home safely using an exit strategy that is executed with accountability and diplomacy and which helps achieve harmony among other nations.

As a proud representative of California's 15th Congressional District, I am committed to devoting myself and my district to building Cultures of Peace for the children of the world and for future generations. My constituents and I hope that the acts of peace we perform on this day serve to strengthen the ongoing legacy of democracy, liberty and equality within our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHICAGO
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS COL-
LEGE PREPARATORY HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of The Chicago Academy for the Arts, recently awarded this year's Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center's Alliance for the Arts Education Network.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts High School has served the students and families of the city of Chicago as well as students from Indiana and Wisconsin since 1981. The students at The Chicago Academy for the Arts have established an impressive record of academic achievement as well as artistic talent ranging from fine arts to acting to costume and set design. Ninety-seven percent of the Academy's graduates go on to top colleges and conservatories.

Since 1981, The Chicago Academy for the Arts has served as one of five private, independent, college-preparatory arts high schools in the United States. In addition to a traditional high school curriculum, students are given intensive training in the fields of: Music, Visual Art, Dance, Theater, Musical Theater, and Media Arts. Each day, students spend 5 hours in academics and 3 hours in their chosen art major, all of which include classes in theory, history, and technique.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts is designed to maximize each student's potential to communicate through the arts. The Arts Academy strives to prepare students to think critically and independently in order to prepare them to succeed in both higher education and their chosen field in the arts.

Alumni from The Chicago Academy for the Arts have gone on to attend schools such as the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, The Juilliard School, Brandeis University, and New York University and include such notables as actors John Cusack and Lara Flynn Boyle; screenwriter and director Adam Rifkin; and composer Alex Wurman as well as members of the Joffrey Ballet, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I believe that it is important to support and recognize quality education in the arts. The Chicago Academy for the Arts is a shining example of art in education at its best. I am proud of the students, faculty and families of the school and I wish them continued success in the coming years.

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I recently took two actions regarding the genocide in Darfur that I wanted to bring to your attention.

At the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, the president of Sudan claimed that the genocide in Darfur is a myth propagated by Jewish organizations raising money for Israel.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir remarked that those "who made the publicity, who mobilized the people, invariably, are Jewish organizations."

This statement is unconscionable and demands a vigorous response. Such Anti-Semitic remarks have no place in our world, let alone at the U.N. General Assembly.

Furthermore, the mass killings, rapes and displacement of innocent civilians in Darfur are tragically well documented. The United States Holocaust Museum has issued a Genocide Emergency for Darfur.

Today I signed a letter with several other Members of Congress demanding that President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan retract his baseless remarks. The letter calls on the Sudanese government to abide by the Darfur Peace Agreement and the will of the U.N. Security Council.

A copy of this letter is reprinted below for your information.

In addition, I am an original co-sponsor of the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006.

This legislation will ban federal contracts going to corporations doing business in Sudan that directly or indirectly support the genocide.

Countless organizations have dedicated untold hours to stopping the carnage and human suffering in Darfur.

These organizations include the American Jewish World Service, Amnesty International, International Committee of the Red Cross and the NAACP.

The U.S. Congress must enact the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006 and join this list of international groups working to end the genocide in Darfur.

Sundown on Friday night marks the start of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, the Jewish New Year 5767, thus beginning a 10-day period of personal reflection and contemplation for Jews around the world.

This is a moment in human history when the poignant expression "Never Again" must be repeated over again, coupled with real action to end this tragic period of human suffering.

President OMAR HASSAN AL-BASHIR,
President of Sudan,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR: We were shocked to hear your comments on Tuesday, September 20th, at the U.N. General Assembly where you stated that reports of deaths and refugees in Darfur are "fictions," and that those "who made the publicity, who mobilized the people, invariably, are Jewish organizations."

Many of us have traveled to Darfur and seen the death, destruction, and misery of the innocent civilians in Darfur with our own eyes. The last 3 years of violence in Darfur have resulted in the death of an estimated 200,000 people and millions have been forced from their homes. This atrocity has been encouraged and facilitated by your government.

We are grateful that the American Jewish community as well as other faith communities have made a priority of raising the issue of genocide in Darfur. Instead of using the ancient technique of making the Jewish community the scapegoat for your failures, we hope that you will take a close look at your own actions. In direct violation of the

Darfur Peace Agreement and the will of the U.N. Security Council, your government has recently deployed approximately 26,000 troops and attack helicopters to the Darfur region. Your actions have directly resulted in an increase of attacks on civilians and humanitarian aid workers.

Mr. President, we call on you to apologize for and retract your dangerous and fictitious accusations directed towards the Jewish community. We also demand that you work to uphold the Darfur Peace Agreement, and actively and immediately strive to end the genocide within your borders. Finally, we encourage you to work closely with Special Presidential Envoy Andrew Natsios who is ready to aid your nation to achieve a final peace. Rather than fanning the flames of conflict, we hope you will act to save lives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
REPORTS MILESTONE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker in an amazing demonstration of the strength of the American economy, the Treasury Department reported the largest single gross receipt of quarterly corporate taxes in our Nation's history last Friday. Without question, this milestone demonstrates the effectiveness of the pro-growth tax and fiscal policies advanced by this Congress. This news also proves that despite our obligations to protect our national security, fight the War on Terror abroad and cover the increasing costs of entitlement programs at home, the American economy will continue to grow and benefit the American people.

These historic tax receipts are not an isolated event. Last Friday's announcement is the result of back-to-back quarters of economic growth throughout America. According to the Treasury Department, last year's tax receipts were also a record high, having grown \$275 billion, or 14.6 percent, from the previous year.

Let's not forget about jobs. Increased corporate tax receipts are the result of greater corporate activity, which leads to job creation. Our economy has now added jobs for 36 straight months. The policies this Congress has set in motion have created the framework for an economy that has created more than 1.7 million jobs over the past 12 months and more than 5.7 million jobs since August 2003.

I and my colleagues are dedicated to continuing this trend by promoting legislation to roll back red tape, lower taxes on America's families and set the stage for a brighter future for all Americans.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIA'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence. I would like to congratulate the Armenian Government, its people and the entire extended Armenian community on this momen-

tous occasion. Over the last 15 years, the Armenian people have made tremendous progress toward a modern, open and free democracy that should serve as an inspiration to other nations.

Following the collapse of the U.S.S.R., Armenia was among the first of the former Soviet republics to embrace the path of democratic change in pursuit of freedom and self-determination. However, the road to independence was not easy. Centuries of foreign domination, genocide against its people in the early 20th century and seven decades of totalitarian dictatorship did not discourage the Armenian people.

Since its independence, Armenia has emerged as a viable, vibrant society playing an important role in stabilizing the South Caucasus region. Armenia continues to be a trusted partner of the United States in a strategically important area of the world, a regional leader in political and economic reform, and a nation committed to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Armenia has joined the global war on terror by engaging in a strategic relationship with the United States and other coalition members. Armenia's armed forces also participated in NATO's stabilization force in Kosovo, in addition to maintaining and developing a robust program of individual partnership with the North Atlantic Alliance through its Euro-Atlantic Partnership framework.

Armenia also has made tremendous progress in building up a free-market economy. It is one of only a handful of countries to have qualified for the Millennium Challenge Account, is a member of the World Trade Organization and has been granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations status by the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Armenia has overcome a brutal legacy of Ottoman persecution, Soviet oppression, Azerbaijani aggression against Nagorno Karabagh, and the ongoing dual blockades by Turkey and its allies in Baku in its path to independence. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing congratulations to Armenia as well as extend my sincere support and encouragement to flourish as a strong democracy for years to come.

DEDICATED TO PEACE IN SRI
LANKA

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my growing concern about the situation in Sri Lanka. I have followed the state of affairs in Sri Lanka for a long time, and it is clear to me that the current level of violence threatens to return the country to open civil war.

The renewed violence and rising death toll in Sri Lanka is troubling to me and many residents of my congressional district. They shared with me their apprehension about the growing levels of violence and I share their commitment to establishing a lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

That is why today I wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asking her to appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka. I attach that let-

ter. The appointment of a high level official with the ear of President Bush will ensure that our government is focused on doing everything in its power to bring a lasting peace to the people of Sri Lanka. Further, naming a special envoy will ensure that there is a U.S. government official solely dedicated to fostering cooperation between the two parties and working to establish a mutually agreed peace. This envoy also must have a clear mandate to monitor human rights violations on the ground and ensure that international humanitarian laws are observed by all parties.

It is my hope and prayer that the violence will end and that the parties in Sri Lanka will return to the peace negotiations. America must remain committed to fostering peace in Sri Lanka and working with the international community to bring an end to the current conflict. The people have endured civil war for too long. Our Nation must do everything it can to foster a lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, September 21, 2006.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: I am writing to urge you to appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka because I am deeply troubled by the situation on the ground there. This summer brought an end to the negotiated permanent ceasefire, which had been generally observed since 2002. The renewed violence and rising death toll in Sri Lanka are a grave risk to the fragile peace process and threaten a return to open civil war.

News reports indicate that recent heavy fighting has resulted in hundreds of deaths and the displacement of more than 200,000 people in Sri Lanka. Parties to the conflict are not the only ones suffering. As you know, The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) recently investigated the murder of 17 aid workers, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made clear just this week that "there is an urgent need for the international community to monitor the unfolding human rights situation."

Naming a special envoy for Sri Lanka would further emphasize our government's commitment to creating a lasting peace. It is essential that the U.S. envoy be a high-level official with the ear of President Bush and you. The envoy's mandate should be clear and must include efforts to increase monitoring of human rights violations.

The citizens of Sri Lanka have endured civil war for too long. We must do everything we can to foster a lasting peace for the country. Again, I request that you appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka to help bring peace to the country.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT,
Member of Congress.

IN HONOR OF SGT. GERMAINE
DEBRO

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, "It's hard to be sad when I'm so proud. You are my hero." These were the words Alvin Debroy, Jr., used to bid his brother, Sgt. Germaine Debroy, a final goodbye.

Sgt. Debroy was killed near Balad, Iraq, on September 4 when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb.

A member of the Nebraska National Guard, he had served in both Bosnia and Kuwait. Because of these recent deployments, he was not required to go to Iraq. But as a single man with no children, he volunteered so other soldiers would not have to leave their families.

At the funeral service at Morning Star Baptist Church in North Omaha, Pastor Leroy Adams said to us "I look across this sanctuary and see America . . . One Nation, under God, in a Church, and Germaine brought us together. . . . It's not how long you live—it's how well you live.

His friends recalled Germaine's love for life, selflessness, and compassion for others. Germaine's mother, Priscilla, said her son "died a proud soldier." Our Nation will be forever grateful to Sgt. Germaine Debro.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP F. JOSEPH GOSSMAN'S RETIREMENT AND WELCOMING BISHOP MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE TO THE RALEIGH DIOCESE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer thanks for the life and work of Bishop F. Joseph Gossman in the Raleigh Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church and to welcome his successor, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, whose installation I attended at Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh last month. It was a grand event, dedicated to the glory of God. The community is indebted to Father Gerald Lewis, General Chair of the Planning Committee, and others who so carefully and lovingly prepared this service.

Bishop Gossman led the Roman Catholic diocese for 31 years in Raleigh, becoming the longest-serving diocesan bishop in the United States. The diocese grew from about 38,000 members in 1975 to 200,000 in 2005, with 62 new churches dedicated during that time. Priests who worked with Bishop Gossman describe him as collaborative and collegial, genial and gentle. But he was a warrior on issues to which his faith spoke. He supported the right of factory and farm workers to organize, spoke out against the death penalty, and stood up for civil rights and social justice. In recent years, he addressed the divisive issue of immigration, advocating for laws that respect the human rights of immigrants and preserve the unity of their families, and paid special attention to the spiritual needs of North Carolina's growing Latino population.

Bishop Gossman broke new ground in promoting and participating in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. He moved women into more and more responsible leadership positions; eight of the parishes in the diocese are now headed by women. Noting that his leadership drew on expectations flowing from the Vatican Council of the 1960s, William Powell, historian of North Carolina Catholics, recently recalled what Bishop Gossman said when asked how he would like to be remembered: As someone who loved people and . . . who let people breathe, not just the air of the Church but the air of life.

Joseph Gossman leaves a rich legacy, not only of burgeoning parishes and schools, but

also of countless lives touched and enriched by his witness and his ministry. I join a grateful community in wishing him health, happiness, and many rewarding years to come.

Bishop Michael Burbidge comes to Raleigh from Philadelphia, PA with a rich history in the church despite his relative youth. He studied for the priesthood at the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and subsequently served as parish priest, school chaplain, seminary dean, and administrative secretary to the Archbishop of Philadelphia. More recently Bishop Burbidge has led in the formation of future priests as Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and has served as an auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia with oversight duties ranging from the Secretariat for Clergy to the Office for Communications.

Bishop Burbidge thus brings a wealth of experience to the Diocese of Raleigh, where he has invited the faithful "to join him in his prayer for grace always to 'walk humbly with God,' in loyalty and fidelity, trusting the past to His mercy, the present to His love, and the future to His providence." He has made an auspicious beginning, and the citizens of North Carolina welcome him warmly and wish for him grace and strength in the work he has undertaken.

CELEBRATING KPMG LLP'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions made by KPMG, LLP to Philadelphia, our people, our businesses, and the health of American capital markets, and do so on the occasion of the firm's 100th anniversary in our city.

In 1906, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. opened its doors on Chestnut Street. Marwick, Mitchell & Co. was then a small accounting firm with less than a handful of partners. In the last 100 years, Philadelphia has added greatly to its history as the birthplace of the American republic to its renown as one of the nation's leading ports, centers of commerce, and home to many Fortune 500 companies. Marwick, Mitchell & Co. grew with Philadelphia and is known today as KPMG.

Throughout its history, KPMG has been an outstanding citizen of Philadelphia. Today, KPMG is one of the oldest and largest professional services firms in the city, employing more than 850 professionals headquartered, on Market Street and providing a variety of audit, tax, and advisory services to the public and private sectors.

KPMG's partners and employees serve as officers, directors and volunteers for many of Philadelphia's philanthropic and charitable organizations. Earlier this year, KPMG sponsored the "City Hall in Bloom" spring planting. As part of the event, more than 200 KPMG volunteers joined students from the Bach-Martin Elementary School in clearing, cleaning and preparing beds for more than 8,500 flowers plants and trees in the largest volunteer clean-up ever mounted at City Hall. There are many other examples of KPMG's volunteerism. Employees helped paint the interior of Bach-Martin school and created a new

mural for the entrance. The firm also has assisted the "Help Philadelphia" women's shelter with a number of events over the years. Last year, KPMG helped welcome refugees from Hurricane Katrina, assisting in their relocation. This year, a group of KPMG professionals traveled to the Gulf region to help rebuild homes with Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to KPMG and its people for 100 years of service to Philadelphia, for its contributions to the growth and health of the city's commerce, and for its many efforts benefiting our community's quality of life.

HONORING THE FILIPINO VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 622, recognizing and honoring the Filipino veterans who fought during World War II.

Filipino soldiers fought and died alongside American troops at some of the war's most horrific battles like Bataan and Corregidor. During the infamous Bataan Death March, over six thousand Filipino soldiers lost their lives.

The courage of these soldiers proved crucial to turning the tide of the Pacific war against the Japanese forces occupying the Philippines, and in ultimately securing victory for the United States and the newly independent nation of the Philippines.

In appreciation of the courage and sacrifice of the Filipino veterans, President Harry S. Truman stated: "They fought with gallantry and courage under most difficult conditions. I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Philippine Army veterans."

Yet for all their sacrifices, Congress in 1946 divested Filipino soldiers of their military benefits while soldiers of other allied countries retained their status and privileges as American veterans. In 2003, Congress finally acted to give Veterans Health benefits to the surviving Filipino veterans, and I am proud to have supported that effort, as well as current legislation to grant full veteran status to Filipino veterans.

Mr. Speaker, young Filipino men responded to the call of duty over sixty years ago and fought valiantly under the American flag. I am proud today to support H. Res. 622 and to extend my gratitude towards these veterans for their dedicated service and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. FRED KOTLER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who exhibited leadership and dedication in serving the working men and women of the Upper Peninsula and our Nation. On September 23, 2006, Mr. Fred Kotler

will be inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The organized labor movement enjoys a rich history in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. From the mining strikes in the Copper Country of 1913–1914 to the present day, working men and women across the Upper Peninsula have exhibited a heritage of proud trade unionism. Mr. Kotler exemplifies that rich tradition by having served as an educator, a labor organizer and as a business agent.

Mr. Kotler served as Director of the Labor Education Program at Northern Michigan University from 1986 to 1994. During his tenure there, he coordinated and worked closely with the Labor Advisory Planning Committee. He is credited with building the university's Labor Education Program.

At Northern Michigan University, Mr. Kotler was responsible for developing and directing conferences, seminars and workshops that helped to educate the staff, officers, stewards and rank-and-file members of public and private sector local unions as well as the Michigan AFL–CIO and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. Much of Mr. Kotler's expertise focused on what he refers to as "training the trainer," in other words educating key union leaders and personnel to build stronger, more effective unions. This technique focuses on empowering unions to grow their own membership and more effectively bargain on behalf of their members.

Mr. Kotler's participation and leadership in the labor movement predates his work in the Upper Peninsula. In 1977, Mr. Kotler worked with the Service Employees International Union on a citywide ballot initiative in San Francisco. In the early 1980s, Mr. Kotler helped to organize hospital workers in Sonoma, California. In 1983, he returned to San Francisco to serve as the Business Representative and Organizer for the local Service Employees Union there.

This extensive work in the field of labor organizing made him uniquely qualified to develop and implement the curriculum of Northern Michigan University's Labor Education Program. Many of my constituents benefited from his tutelage as well as from his work on the Marquette County Central Labor Council where he served as a delegate.

As one might expect, since leaving Northern Michigan University in 1994, Mr. Kotler has continued his commitment to organized labor as a scholar and an organizer. Today he serves as the Director of the Cornell/New York State AFL–CIO Union Leadership Institute and as Associate Director of the Construction Industry Program. Since joining the faculty of Cornell, he has developed a number of innovative programs that have been used to strengthen unions not only in New York, but nationwide. He designed and developed programs such as the Construction Organizing Membership Education Training (COMET) and the Multi-Trade Organizing Volunteer Education (MOVE) curriculums that streamlined labor's organizing techniques in the construction industry.

While not a native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Mr. Kotler's contributions to the area have endeared him to many of my constituents who came to view him as one of our own. The feeling appears to be mutual. As he described his Upper Peninsula neighbors, "The folks up there welcomed me with open arms. They taught me so much about the labor movement in the Upper Peninsula."

Since 1993, outstanding labor leaders and individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of the labor movement in northern Michigan, have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Mr. Kotler is a deserving addition to this august group. I wish him all the best and ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting Fred Kotler for his contributions to the Upper Peninsula Labor movement and his ongoing dedication to all working men and women in our nation.

STATEMENT OF ROGER P. WINTER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement by former special representative on Sudan, Roger P. Winter. This statement was delivered at a hearing on the current situation in Sudan—the House International Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa.

Roger's testimony is compelling and I encourage all members to read it. The warning signs are written on the wall; if the international community fails to act, the genocide in Darfur can and will get worse.

The statement of Roger P. Winter, October 20, 2006, follows:

STATEMENT OF ROGER P. WINTER, FORMER SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON SUDAN OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

Sudan's National Congress Party is controlled by an intellectually-capable, radically-committed, conspiratorial and compassionless nucleus of individuals, long referred to as the National Islamic Front (NIF). In the seventeen years since they came to power by coup to abort an incipient peace process, they have consistently defied the international community and won. As individuals, the NIF has never paid a price for their crimes. Almost all of them are still in important positions.

The NIF core is a competent cadre of men who have an agenda, the pursuit of which has killed millions of Sudanese and uprooted and destroyed the lives of millions more. While their agenda is radically ideological, it is equally about personal power and enrichment. They are not at all suicidal, but they respond only to credible threats against their power and prosperity. The international community with its limitless posturing and (too often) empty words has, to date, never constituted a credible threat. During its seventeen-year reign, the NIF engaged seriously with critics only once, that being when confronted by a strong Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement and Army (SPLM/A) and an energetic international coalition led by the United States. The result was the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), an incredible, detailed document that ended a twenty-two year war between the NIF government and the people of southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei. Despite Khartoum's deliberately slow and selective implementation, in my view, the CPA is now at very serious risk of survival.

Power and wealth in Sudan have historically been concentrated in "the center", in

fact in just a few tribes. All the peripheral populations—North, South, East and West—have, as a result, been marginalized, largely destitute, powerless and lacking development, regardless of their religious, cultural or ethnic background. The U.S. initiative beginning in 2001 made rather incredible progress in ending hostilities between the SPLM and the NIF government and opening up humanitarian access to war-affected people, raising the hopes and expectations of a better life for almost all Sudanese. That the peace process took four years is not surprising, given the egregious history to be overcome and the quality of the final text. The CPA was signed in January 2005. In April an SPLM delegation went to Khartoum to begin implementation arrangements. On landing at Khartoum's airport they were engulfed by joyous throngs of Sudanese of all backgrounds—Muslims, Christians, Africans, Arabs and others—hoisting the delegation onto their shoulders and dancing in the streets. They understood the implications of the CPA to be for all Sudanese. On July 8 when Dr. John de Mabior, chairman of the SPLM and Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA arrived in Khartoum to sign the Interim Constitution that was to implement the CPA, huge crowds of Northerners and Southerners estimated by some at 6–8 million came out to meet him. His popularity was such that, in a free election, it is likely that he could be elected President of Sudan by all the people. A New Sudan was being born.

But Darfur was in flames.

In February 2003, perhaps seeing the progress of CPA negotiations and concerned about being left out of the benefits of the CPA, "rebels" from Darfur's marginalized populations who were considered "African" as distinct from "Arab" initiated hostilities against the NIF government. The NIF responded precisely as it had in the war against the SPLA. This involved destruction of civilian populations, denial of humanitarian assistance to war-affected civilians, utilization of surrogate Arab militias in coordination with formal government military forces and pretence of themselves being the aggrieved party, being the "sovereign" government. The violence exhibited a character far beyond that which could fairly be described as "military". Ethnic cleansing was clear. Genocide was its truer name.

The CPA includes a provision that the South and potentially Abyei can legally secede from the Sudan state if a referendum in those areas, scheduled for 2011, so decides. (The people of Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains, to their great dismay, have no similar option and fear being overwhelmed by Khartoum eventually). The NIF committed itself to make unity attractive but the war in Darfur has demonstrated to the SPLM that unity in a state dominated by the NIF would be anything but attractive. Many core NIF adherents were appalled by this provision, not just at the potential dismemberment of the Sudanese state but also because a large percentage of Sudan's known oil reserves, now increasingly coming on line, are located in the South. If the South legally seceded, that oil would then belong to it as a new separate country. Those NIF personnel also saw other CPA interim provisions as contemptible: that Dr. Garang would become Sudan's First Vice President, that the South would have its own government, that the SPLA would continue to exist as a component of "the national army", but separate from the Government's army, and that national elections would be held.

So, why did the NIF government sign the CPA? With its very limited allegiance from the Sudanese public and increasing military threats from Sudan's other disaffected marginalized populations, with the international war on terror potentially having

implications for Sudan itself, being on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism and also being the political birthing place for Osama bin Laden, not to mention the NIF's own brand of radical politics, the NIF needed to buy time. It also hadn't, despite a twenty two year war, been able to defeat the SPLA. It was in their interests, at least "for now", to sign. At least signing guaranteed it six and one-half years of protected existence. Who could know what opportunities for a course-correction might materialize within that timespan?

On July 30, 2005 Dr. John de Mabior, the embodiment of the possibility of a united New Sudan, was killed in a helicopter crash. The opportunity had arrived. That very day, I believe, the NIF recalculated its future course of action.

To seize the opportunity, the NIF needed to eliminate the Darfur opposition (civilian and military), destabilize the SPLM, corrupt or abort any potential for a viable referendum, maintain possession of the oil fields of Abyei, and ensure the degradation of the SPLA. The NIF has seen progress on all of these in the last fourteen months.

We are currently witnessing the NIF's attempt to achieve the elimination of its Darfur opposition. Khartoum is attempting to change the realities on the ground in Darfur before the international community gets serious, if that is possible. They believe they have "read" us, the international community, all accurately, the U.S. included. They believe there will be a continued slow response on our part to Darfur's genocide and acceptable limits to whatever actions are ultimately taken. After all, that's been pretty much the case throughout their tenure. Thus, the liquidation of the Darfur opposition is now in motion.

The NIF has successfully marginalized the SPLM within the "Government of National Unity" created by the CPA. The SPLM is largely powerless to affect significant national policy. The NIF has "bought" several SPLM officials and also inserted into the SPLM apparatus other key individuals whose loyalty is to Khartoum. Several veteran SPLM leaders, brilliant, capable men who were critical in achieving the CPA, have now left the country in despair.

The process for undermining the referendum is now underway. The first elections, preliminary to any referendum, are scheduled for 2008. To prepare for them, basic elements, laws and structures must be put in place, especially in a context where there is no history of elections. For example, there has been no proper census in Sudan since 1983. Thus, the architecture for elections is being put in place in a context largely controlled by Khartoum loyalists. And, too, the international community is being of only limited assistance to the SPLM in its conversion from a rebel movement into a nationally competitive political party, a serious shortcoming.

The future of Abyei, a place little understood by outsiders, is a critical issue as it is the repository of a significant amount of Sudan's oil; most of Abyei is an oil field. Currently that oil is being extracted under Government contracts with oil companies from China, with its UN Security Council veto power, Malaysia, India and Sudan itself. Its products are fueling the NIF's war in Darfur. The CPA provided for an Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) to determine Abyei's actual borders, so that oil revenues can be properly allocated. The ABC determined the boundaries but President Beshir has rejected it and also the appointment of an interim local government as provided in the CPA. To

buy time as the clock ticks, he refuses to proceed. The highly volatile Abyei area, thus, remains largely in the hands of the Sudanese Army.

The Sudan Peoples Liberation Army is, in many ways, the reason the CPA exists. This rebel army, with very limited resources, could not be defeated by the Sudan army. But that was then; this is now. The balance may be changing. The riches of Khartoum are being used to modernize and equip the Sudan Army. The SPLA is largely as it was several years ago, perhaps even less so. In significant part, this is due to us. Endless debating regarding what the U.S. is authorized to do to the help in the transformation of the SPLA into a modern military force is very dangerous. It could cost South Sudan and potentially all of Sudan tragically in the future. Transformation of the SPLA is the surest guarantee that the CPA will survive.

It is my view the war in Darfur and the survival of the CPA are inextricably entwined, and the NIF sees it. If, through weak international responses to genocide, the NIF succeeds in eliminating its Darfur opposition, and that reality is combined with the reality of the loss of Dr. Garang, the only southern leader who had the stature to compete successfully with Khartoum, the stage is set for the NIF to entirely undermine the CPA. The SPLM can again compete, and its current leadership is trying to so position it, but its recovery from the loss of Dr. Garang and from the destabilization efforts of the NIF will take time. And the clock is ticking.

Based on this analysis, I encourage the following urgent steps:

1. Deploy non-consensually the now-stymied UN protection force. In fact, some of the UN force already in the South, in such places as Wau virtually next door to Darfur, could be moved there quickly. In the meantime, declare and enforce a no-fly zone for Sudan military aircraft throughout Darfur. U.S. resources exist in Djibouti that could be used for enforcement purposes.

2. Provide substantial assistance to the SPLM to empower its participation in governance at all levels. To be seriously competitive as a national political party and to effectively govern the South. The Government of South Sudan also needs assistance in anticorruption efforts, such as setting up an office of Inspector General of Government. Some of these issues were discussed by Salva Kiir, President of South Sudan, when he met with President Bush in July.

3. Focus now urgently on the upcoming interim elections and ultimately the referendum. Time is flying by, given what needs to be accomplished. Monitor preparations in detail and equip the SPLM to be able to fully participate in preparations.

4. Take Abyei seriously. If war breaks out again between the NIF and the SPLM, it will in my estimation likely begin in Abyei. Expose President Beshir's perfidy in delaying. Raise the issue at the UN Security Council and other appropriate forums.

5. Seriously assist the SPLA in its conversion from a rebel force to a modern military. The delays already caused by U.S. persistent bureaucracies have the potential for actually encouraging war and the ultimate loss of life and of the CPA.

6. Finally, given the "no negative consequences" pattern experienced by the NIF for crimes committed, accountability for past, current and future crimes is a critical issue. Unfortunately for Sudanese, the International Criminal Court seems to have disappeared. An internationally agreed-on system of accountability is desperately needed for Sudan's atrocities. The U.S. should ac-

tively take leadership in addressing this crying need.

Believe me, we are in really dangerous times regarding Sudan. It could happen that the CPA is stamped "CANCELLED", along with an incredible additional number of Sudanese lives. And if that happened, it would blot out one of the finest U.S. initiatives of the last decade.

HONORING THE KANSAS CITY HISPANIC NEWS ON THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, during this Hispanic Heritage Month, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Americans of Hispanic descent in my District. Joe and Ramona Arce, owners of Arce Communications, Inc., which publishes the Kansas City Hispanic News, are celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the start of their local Hispanic publication. On September 16, 1996, the Arce family: Joe, Ramona, their daughters, Lisa and Rachel, along with the assistance of family friends, Jesus Ortiz and Kathleen Cruden, set out on their journey of providing informative local news on topics of interest for the growing Latino community in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area with their first ten page bilingual newsprint.

Mr. Joe Arce—a product of Kansas City, Missouri's Westside neighborhood, a proud long-standing Mexican-American neighborhood—has a long history of civic involvement and long been known as an advocate of the Latino community, having served on the Boards of many local non-profit organizations, such as the Guadalupe Centers, the Hispanic Media Association, and the Center for Management Assistance. He has also served on Advisory Boards, including with the Cabot Westside Clinic and Heart of America United Way. With over 25 years of news experience, both as a cameraman and reporter at WDAF-TV Channel 4, Joe and his family envisioned the formation of a new vehicle by which they could "transmit" the stories of local people as opposed to those carried in the mainstream metropolitan papers. I am proud of the Arce family's accomplishment, by reaching their goal of providing in-depth stories to the readership of the Greater Kansas City Area. The Kansas City Hispanic News has emerged as an important link between the local Latino community and the general public. Joe and Ramona Arce have demonstrated how a passion to obtain newsworthy information and a motivation to distribute valuable information can improve a community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the 109th Congress please join me in saluting the Arce Family and the Kansas City Hispanic News for their years of dedicated service to the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Joe and Ramona, thank you for all your hard work in providing a quality newspaper for our community and congratulations on your 10th Anniversary.